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Major prepares for 'crunch week'

Europe's banks join forces to defend sterling

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JONATHAN PRYNN

THE government yesterday sought to halt the slide in sterling by emphasising its readiness to raise interest rates to maintain its value within the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The campaign to defend the pound is likely to open this morning with heavy European-wide intervention on the international currency markets from the Bank of England and central banks of European Community members.

The Treasury made clear that it is continuing to keep its options open, including raising interest rates as it struggles to halt the slide and avert a sterling crisis. Its firm stance sent a signal to speculators not to gamble that the government will relax its policy on maintaining sterling within its current ERM bands. A Treasury spokesman confirmed that the government rules out nothing and "will do whatever is necessary".

Labour said yesterday that it would oppose strongly any rise in interest rates. Robin Cook, the trade and industry spokesman, said: "John Major should realise you cannot have a strong pound without a strong economy."

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, predicted that the trade figures out today

Terry Major, the prime minister's brother, has been hit by the recession and is unable to afford his usual annual holiday to Bognor Regis. Instead Mr Major, who retired early because of back pain, and his wife Shirley will take occasional day trips. *Diary, page 11*

Anatole Kalcinsky suggests a dozen ways to improve economic policy without blaming the ERM rate. *Page 17*

would confirm that with the government "sleepwalking" through the summer the economy was unravelling.

The Whitehall offensive came on the eve of a critical week of trading in the currency markets and as the prime minister and the Chancellor prepared for talks today about how to avert further sterling falls.

A rise in lending rates to 11 or 12 per cent could come soon if the pound continues last week's plunge on the currency markets.

Norman Lamont was cutting short his holiday to be at his Treasury desk today and Mr Major flew back from his Spanish break last night to prepare himself for what one prominent Tory called a "crunch week" for the government. They are expected to meet today in Downing Street where they may decide to restate their commitment to sterling's ERM parity.

On Friday afternoon the pound fell to its lowest level against the mark since joining the ERM in October 1990. Under ERM rules the Treasury, the Bank and other European central banks are committed to defending the pound as it approaches the lowest permissible level against the mark of DM2.7780.

Pressure on sterling comes after central banks failed on Friday to support the plunging dollar which is standing at historic lows and is approaching two dollars to the pound. Unlike previous sterling crises, the crucial comparison is with the mark within the ERM, where the pound is the weakest currency.

Any rise in interest rates will come only after European intervention has demonstra-

bly failed to support the British currency. The Treasury is hoping that an assault on speculators will prevent them pushing sterling to its lower limit again.

The stock market is also likely to open down between 20 and 30 points this morning following a 50-point plunge on Wall Street on Friday evening, after worldwide action to support the dollar failed.

The return of Mr Major and Mr Lamont coincided with demands from Conservative backbenchers for an easing of monetary policy to stop the recession turning into a slump. But uppermost in ministers' minds was the urgency of demonstrating to the markets the government's commitment to defending sterling.

In the absence of its two most senior figures, the government fielded Gerry Malone, the deputy chairman of the Conservative party, to impress on dealers the depth of its resolve. Mr Malone said that the long-term health of the economy depended on the government weathering this test of its commitment to the pound's value within the ERM.

"What would totally undermine confidence in the government's policy would be if... we were to rule out the possibility of using interest rates to maintain our position in the ERM," he said on BBC Radio 4. "I have every confidence that the government will take the determined action that will be necessary, whatever it is, as the markets open to make sure we maintain our position and our policy."

Downing Street sources drove home this message, saying that the government would do whatever was necessary to defend the pound and making clear that higher interest rates was among the options at its disposal. However, it hopes that Bank of England intervention - selling marks and buying pounds with its £20 billion in reserves - will be enough to stop last week's slide.

Damning agenda, page 2
 Leading article, page 11
 Stern test, page 15
 Business comment, page 17

Israel eases security to woo Palestinians

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI unilateral easing of security restrictions for Palestinians in the occupied territories and ordered the release of several hundred Arab prisoners, in an effort to improve the atmosphere before the Middle East peace talks due to resume in Washington today.

In a set of confidence-building measures, the Israeli authorities first backed down from their two-day standoff with the Palestinian delegation when they promised to ease the movement in and out of the country of the delegates and their support staff.

"This is a major achievement. I hope it sets the tone for a very constructive round," said Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, as the team set off from Jerusalem for Amman after resolving their dispute. "We are going to Washington with a very constructive spirit, with a very positive attitude and we are willing to study everything they will put on the table."

The move was followed only hours later by a release. *Continued on page 14, col 4*

No-fly zone, page 8



Going home: The Duchess of York at Heathrow yesterday with the Princesses Beatrice, left, and Eugenie

Duchess may have made her last exit

By ALAN HAMILTON

PURSUED by speculation that she may have departed from the royal family's intimate circle for the last time, the Duchess of York, accompanied by her two children, left Balmoral yesterday and returned to her rented home near Windsor. It was the first time she had been seen in public since intimate photographs of her holiday in St Tropez with John Bryan appeared last Thursday in the *Daily Mirror* and other journals across Europe.

Buckingham Palace said last night that the duchess had always planned to leave the Queen's Deedside holiday home yesterday, and added that they had no information on her future plans. It has been widely rumoured that she will fly shortly to see her widowed mother, Mrs Hector Barrington, who lives in Argentina, but she was not on board yesterday afternoon's direct flight to Buenos Aires.

The duchess chose the moment when the royal family were preparing to attend the regular Sunday morning service at Cranle church, just outside the gates of Balmoral, to make her exit. Watched by a crowd of photographers, she drove out of the castle grounds at the wheel of a blue Ford Granada, accompanied by a detective and, in the rear. *Continued on page 14, col 7*

Best of terms, page 2

Bosnian Muslims launch attacks to regain territory

By ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN LONDON

BOSNIAN Muslims in Sarajevo launched a fierce counter-attack against Serb forces yesterday to try to regain territory before peace talks begin in London on Wednesday.

Sarajevo radio said more than 50 people had been killed since midday on Friday and hospitals reported hundreds of new injuries, including two British sappers. Belgrade radio said Bosnian forces used an armoured train to try to break through Serbian lines in the town of Ilidza but were repulsed.

As the Bosnian Muslims launched their attempt to break through the Serbian lines, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said Bosnian Serbs would not be allowed to keep territory they had gained by force. "We need to make it clear that we don't accept the partition of Bosnia by force... The idea that simply because you or your friends have occupied swathes of territory, the world simply packs up and accepts that, will be shown to be wrong," he told *The Independent* on Sunday.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, said John Smith, the Labour leader, was consulting the shadow cabinet on a possible recall of Parliament. The government would have to accede to such a request.

John Major, who will chair the peace conference with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, will press for a cease-

fire and a return to "civilised behaviour". He wants an end to ethnic cleansing, the closure of prison camps, and respect for existing frontiers and the rights of ethnic minorities. Mr Hurd, however, sought to lower expectations. "We cannot expect to solve problems in two days," he said in an article in the *Sunday Express*.

The Bosnian Muslims yesterday shelled Serb positions in several districts. Croat fighters also plunged into the counter-offensive to help the Muslims.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, ordered his followers to exercise restraint ahead of the peace conference. But in Pososje, the main refugee centre in western Croatia, Peter Kessler, the spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said Muslims from northern Bosnia were being forced to trek south because the UN had prevented the Serbs from pushing them into Croatia. Refugees said they had been robbed, bussed south to the wooded Vlasica mountains and left to walk.

A UN report, leaked in New York, suggested that, in a bid to gain world sympathy, Muslims may themselves have carried out attacks on their own people in past months. The report said they were responsible for a mortar attack on a Sarajevo bread queue, the shelling of a funeral, and mortar fire during Mr Hurd's recent visit to Sarajevo among other at-

tacks. A Bosnian spokesman, however, said it was "ridiculous to suggest that we are shelling ourselves".

Reflecting a shift in mood, International Red Cross officials expressed alarm at the weekend over the atrocities committed by all sides in the ethnic cleansing process.

Buying time, page 7
 Letters, page 11

Britons in sea disaster

A British travel agent, Susan Hopley, escaped death in the debris-strewn seas when a Greek-registered cruise ship sank off Malaysia after colliding with a Taiwanese fishing boat.

One of 15 Britons on board, she was trapped under water when a lifeboat splintered in pieces but was picked up later. A rapid rescue operation saved 534 passengers; only nine at most died. *Page 14*

Swap offer

Phil Ride, brother of Paul Ride, the Briton jailed in Baghdad, said he wanted to swap places with him, and his family was planning to travel to Iraq. *Page 3*

Kabul delay

Battles between dissident rebels and Afghan government troops set back plans for 200 envoys to quit Kabul under a ceasefire. *Page 9*

Pay plea

The Confederation of British Industry wants public sector pay rises financed from efficiency gains. A survey shows private sector pay awards at between 4 and 4.9 per cent. *Page 15*

Trophy fear

Controversy over alleged tampering with the ball by Pakistan's bowlers emerged again after they beat England by three runs in the fourth Texaco Trophy one-day international. *Page 26*

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Angry Andrew bears down on Florida beaches

EVEN before the first gusts of Hurricane Andrew had begun to hit the Florida coast, mayhem came to the sunny, hedonistic beaches of the American South yesterday. As the hurricane approached with winds of up to 135mph, an evacuation was mounted to move nearly a million people, myself among them, away from vulnerable coastal areas where the storm was expected to hit.

Officials told residents not to panic but to be prepared for what is expected to be the most powerful hurricane to hit south Florida in almost 60 years. Administrators of our building, which directly faces the sea, told my wife and myself yesterday morning that the building was being evacuated. We were free to stay, if we wanted but we were strongly advised against it. We took a few clothes and food and left for the home of a friend, after saying a sad goodbye to our cat.

David Adams filed this report shortly before he was forced to leave his flat in an evacuation zone on Miami Beach.

Police patrolled Miami Beach, advising stragglers to leave the area as soon as possible. Helicopters flew over supermarkets checking signs for unrest, as isolated scuffles broke out over a lack of shopping carts. Most shoppers appeared calm, although long queues developed and bottled water and powdered milk supplies disappeared off shelves. Automatic bank machines also quickly ran out of money.

To control the alarm, a "Rumour Control Hotline" was set up by local authorities. County officials on television and radio also advised evacuees to go to relatives and friends for 48 hours. Those leaving evacuation

zones were told they would not be allowed to return until after the storm had passed. People with no place to go were advised where they could find public shelters, and were warned not to take pets, alcohol or firearms with them.

Traffic jams spread across the city and officials suspended toll payments to speed the flow. Roads were packed with cars piled high with suitcases and belongings, some pulling boats behind them. John Hamilton, who lives on a sailboat, docked his boat near one of the causeways linking Miami Beach to the mainland, and hoped it would be safe. "If the boat is meant to sink, then God must have a bigger one in mind for me," he said.

Last night Hurricane Andrew was headed straight for the Bahamas and Miami picking up speed as it passed over the warm waters of the

Gulf Stream. Forecasters at the Hurricane Centre described Andrew as a "small but powerful" hurricane about 40-50 miles in width, capable of causing a 12-14 foot tidal "surge" along the coast. The last time Miami was struck by a severe hurricane was in 1935 when a tidal wave destroyed the railway line down the Florida Keys killing 800 people.

Emergency shelters manned by the Red Cross were opened across the city at local schools for those residents ordered to evacuate their homes. Hospitals on the coast also moved patients to safer locations. Normal bus services were cancelled to dedicate all available transport to the evacuation. Worst affected was the city of Miami Beach where all residents were ordered to leave their homes. The population of the middle and upper Florida Keys.

Continued on page 14, col 3

TODAY IN THE TIMES

MOTHER AND CHILD



What does one do with grief? What does one do with hate? Edna O'Brien's new novel *Time and Tide* *Life & Times* Page 1

RAPPER AND RAVER



Festivals like the Notting Hill Carnival are a rite of passage, offering moments of community spirit *Life & Times* Page 3

TEACHER AND SCHOLAR



Visionary head teachers will always be defeated by market forces and parent power, says Mary Warnock *Page 10*

RETAKING A-LEVELS?

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Leaving the royal circle on the best of terms

IF THE Duchess of York's journey with her two children on British Airways flight BA5907 from Aberdeen to Heathrow yesterday does indeed signal her formal departure from the royal family, it will not be without precedent.

On December 3, 1936, a week before Edward VIII broadcast his speech of abdication to the nation, Mrs Wallis Simpson decided that her best course was to escape the gaudy life. She and an aide flew to Cannes disguised as "Mr and Mrs Harris", and she emerged from the aircraft with a rug over her head, much as the duchess arrived in the same corner of the French Riviera for her recent ill-starred holiday in the fruitless disguise of a headscarf and dark glasses.

Mrs Simpson was not to see England again for three years, during which time the

former king, by then the Duke of Windsor, argued to no avail with his brother George VI that she should receive the appellation "Her Royal Highness".

There are now suggestions that, in the event of divorce, the Duchess of York should be stripped of her HRH and become simply Sarah, Duchess of York, leaving the full title to be assumed by any future wife of the duke.

Since March, it is reported, lawyers representing the duke and the duchess have been hammering out the financial terms of a full separation. It has clearly not been easy.

The Duke of Windsor tried to take some of his Civil List allowance with him into exile, but was ruled strictly out of order by Stanley Baldwin, the then prime minister. He eventually came to an agreement with King George VI

Flights into exile, disguises, assumed names: Alan Hamilton reflects on the outcome of a vanishing act in 1936

that he should receive £300,000, payable in instalments from the new king's private funds, in return for handing over the private residences of Sandringham and Balmoral.

From that arrangement the duke received an income of £21,000 a year, but half of it was conditional on him never setting foot in Britain without the king's express permission. The duke also took into exile a hefty sum, estimated at nearly £1 million, from the surplus revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall he had amassed during his 24 years as Prince of Wales.

As the duchess no longer performs official duties, she effectively no longer benefits

from the Civil List, which currently pays the York household £249,000 a year in working expenses. But she remains a charge on public funds; two police officers of the Royal Protection Group accompanied her on her St Tropez holiday, and will continue to guard her two children, who remain fifth and sixth in line to the throne whether their parents are divorced or not.

Any financial settlement for the duchess will have to come out of the Queen's private finances, which probably extend to at least £30 million. The duchess, who has become accustomed to a high-rolling lifestyle at other people's expense, may try to

drive a hard bargain. If she wished, she could threaten to play her trump card, an autobiography of embarrassing disclosures.

Recent royal divorces have been achieved with a notable lack of acrimony, at least in public, but no other member of the family has been photographed in such compromising circumstances as has the duchess. Lord Snowdon and Princess Margaret divorced by mutual consent in 1978. Princess Margaret retained custody of their two children; Lord Snowdon behaved very properly in public, and remains on good terms with the royal family.

When the Princess Royal separated from Captain Mark Phillips in 1989, and subsequently divorced him earlier this year, her husband was given an undisclosed financial settlement from the

Queen's private funds. The princess was given custody of the children and continues to live at Gatcombe Park, bought as a wedding present by the Queen for £750,000. Captain Phillips, who earns his own living from equestrian ventures, now rents another house, also owned by the Queen, on the Gatcombe estate.

An amicable settlement for the duchess may prove more difficult. The Queen's priority will be the welfare of Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, who cannot be looked after by their father alone, as he is about to spend even more time at sea as a Royal Navy officer. If the duchess is given custody, there may well be a condition insisting that he be brought up within the United Kingdom.

Last exit, page 1

JULIAN HERBERT

Tories plan campaign to attract older candidates

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to persuade the business and professional classes that they are not too old at 40 to begin a political career will be launched by Tory party managers.

One aim of the exercise is to give local constituency parties a wider choice in the selection of parliamentary candidates. But the move will also please many ministers, whips and senior backbenchers, who have been dismayed by what they regard as the bumptious behaviour of many of the new intake of 63 Tory MPs.

One effect of the reform, to be announced in the autumn, should be to slow the progress of fast-track Oxford graduates moving smoothly into a safe seat after a brief apprenticeship at Conservative Central Office and as a ministerial special adviser.

Nearly half of the new intake signed the Commons motion opposing the government's Maastricht policy and younger people were well-represented. John Major later rebuked them as "naïve" at a private Downing Street lunch.

The average age of the new intake is 41, with 24 under 40 and only five over 50. Among the 26 Maastricht dissidents, the average age is 37, lending weight to the whips' view that Thatcher's children are leading members of the "awkward squad". "There is a feeling at Westminster that to leave university, come and work at central office, become a special adviser and go into the Commons, and after three months wander around with a permanent expression of amazement that you are not in the cabinet, is not necessarily in the best interests of the Conservative party," a senior party source said.

Party officials, however, are emphasising the positive side of their quest for more mature and widely-experienced individuals for inclusion on the

candidates list of 800, the pool of talent from which local parties make their selections.

Andrew Mitchell, Tory MP for Gedling and party vice-chairman in charge of candidates, is drawing up a report for Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, on ways of "broadening and deepening" the current list.

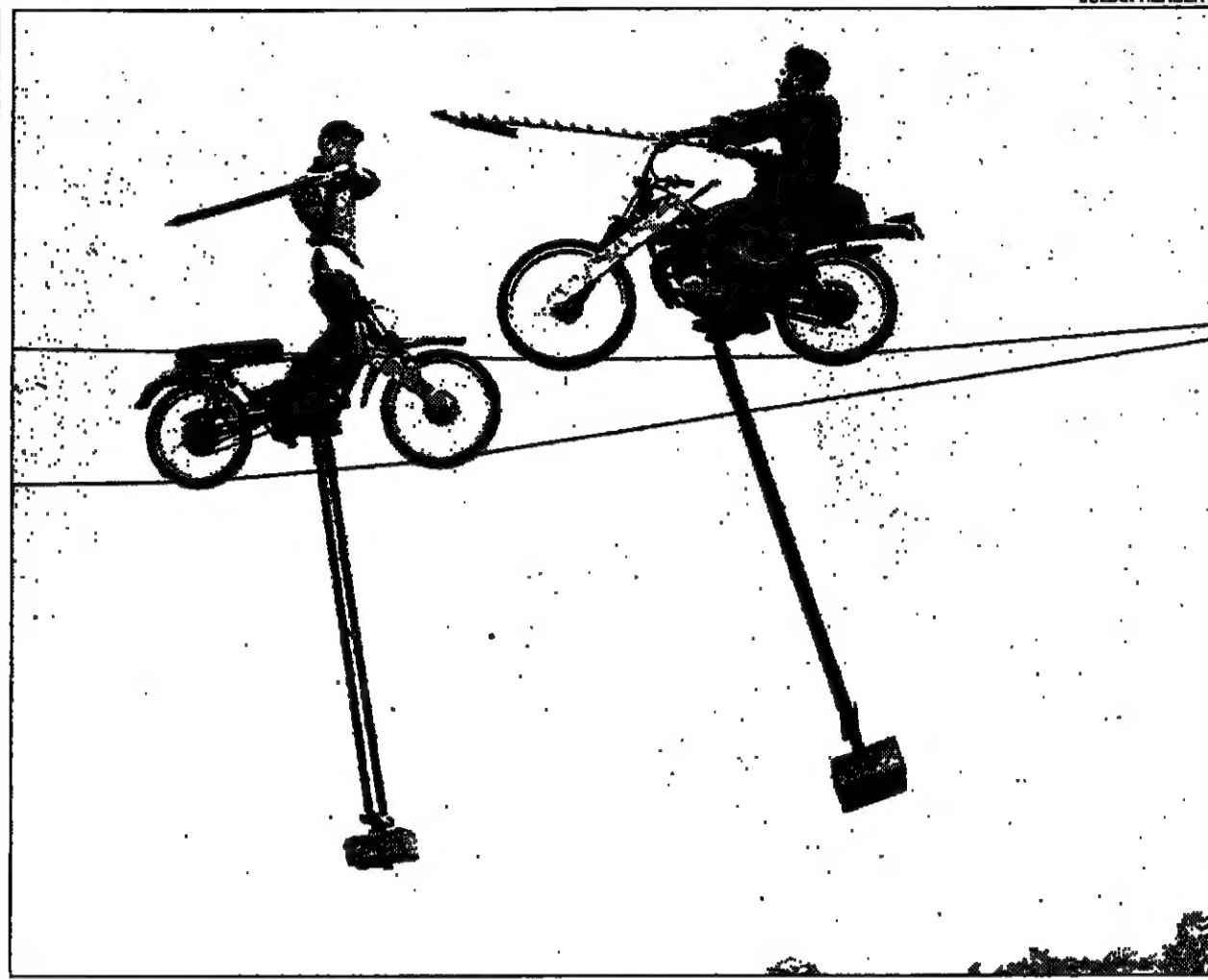
Mr Mitchell said that almost the first question he is asked by prospective candidates is whether they are too old at 40. He is determined to dispel this impression. "We have to get across the message that there is no hidden barrier at 40. Often people who are older have a great deal of experience of life and we want to persuade them to come forward and present themselves for selection."

"We are attracting the right people, but we need to broaden it and attract some people who we are clearly not attracting at the moment. It means a headhunting element. There seems to be a view out there that at the age of 40 you are too old. But the constituencies are saying they do not have this view and neither do I."

The successful businessman looking for a new challenge would be a central target of the campaign. "Someone with a lot of experience of how the economy works out there would be of great benefit to the party," he said.

Mr Mitchell said the special adviser route was legitimate but had disadvantages. Constituency parties were worried that such a person would not have extensive experience of real life.

Efforts will also be made to persuade more women to offer themselves as parliamentary candidates and to remind would-be Tory MPs that they should have a track record of activity at local level before setting their sights on Westminster.



Air jousting: Evan Windling and Karim Karanhouh of London practise high-wire motorcycle jousting 40ft up. A £3,000 grant from the Prince of Wales's Young Business Trust helped to launch the act

Major flies back to daunting agenda

JOHN Major swapped the sunshine of the orange groves of Candelera in Spain for a less certain climate back home yesterday. As he returns to his Downing Street desk today, he is likely to find himself in agreement with Michael Colvin, his Tory backbench colleague, who yesterday predicted that the rest of the summer would be "pretty ugly".

Surveying his in-tray the prime minister will conclude that he has rarely faced such a formidable political agenda.

His first and most pressing priority this week will be to try to head off the run on sterling. Over the weekend, the Whitehall machine was in overdrive in an attempt to warn the markets that the government would not be deflected in its resolve to maintain the value of the currency, even if it meant a rise in interest rates. The government's problem has been that with, until yesterday, the

The prime minister has left the Spanish sunshine to face an uncertain political climate at home. Robin Oakley reports

prime minister in Spain and Norman Lamont, the chancellor, in Italy. It has lacked a credible spokesman for this argument. Mr Major and Mr Lamont will discuss the state of the economy today and no one would be surprised if they then took to the airwaves in an attempt to bully the markets into submission.

The bloody conflict in what used to be Yugoslavia will be the next item to command the prime minister's attention. Tomorrow he will have talks with Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general and his co-chairman at the London conference, which opens on Wednesday.

With Britain holding the presidency of the European Community, the prime minister has convened the confer-

ence in the hope of ending the civil war between the Serbs and the Bosnian Croats and Muslims. He has done so against the background of mounting protests about alleged Western passivity in the face of the slaughter of innocent civilians and against doubts about the readiness of the main protagonists to attend.

Mr Major is promised a full house, but he still risks the humiliation of the conference ending inconclusively or, worse, in yet more recrimination. Originally scheduled for three days, the gathering of foreign ministers from the big powers and the EC is now due to end on Thursday, although it may run into Friday.

The other pressing item on Mr Major's agenda is implementation of the air-exclu-

sion zone proposed for southern Iraq to curb President Saddam Hussein's attacks on the marsh Arabs. The RAF Tornados earmarked for the operation have apparently yet to fly to the Gulf and the prime minister has some loose ends to tie up, not least with his American allies.

Mr Major's domestic policy advisers will also be tapping on his door. Michael Portillo, the Treasury secretary, has returned from Barbados to take up the cudgels in the toughest public spending round for a decade. Mr Major will want to know how it is going. He will also be discussing the outcome of the French referendum on Maastricht next month. A Gallic non could make sterling's current difficulties look like a picnic.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Plane missing with four men aboard

An intensive air and ground search was being carried out last night for a single engine light aircraft with four men on board which is missing after taking off from Blackpool on Saturday morning bound for the Scottish island of Mull.

The missing men are all believed to be from Blackpool. They flew out from the Westair Flying Club at Squire's Gate airport at 11.39am on Saturday without filing a flight plan. The plane, a TB20 Socata, failed to land at Glenforsa on the island and the party did not arrive at the local hotel where they were expected. An RAF Nimrod searched the flight course the missing plane was expected to have taken before continuing the search over the islands of Islay and Jura, close to the route the TB20 should have taken.

Checks were made at other airfields in case the pilot had diverted because of bad weather. Two Sea King rescue helicopters from RAF Lossiemouth and the Royal Navy air station at HMS Gannet near Prestwick, also joined the search.

The RAF aircraft was to lift members of the RAF Kinross mountain rescue team from Skye, where they are on exercise, to Jura. The team is expected to begin a ground search on the mountain range on the island, the Faps of Jura.

Two men were injured yesterday when a helicopter hit overhead power lines at Lower Stretton, Cheshire, burst into flames and crashed. The pilot, James Rimmer, walked away from the wreck and his passenger, Robert Taylor, who had won the trip in a charity draw, was released by paramedics.

The men, both from Northwich, Cheshire, were comfortable last night in Warrington general hospital.

SNP stalwart dies

Colleagues have been paying tribute to Donald Stewart, the Scottish National Party's first and longest-serving M.P., who died yesterday, aged 71, in hospital in Stornoway. He suffered a heart attack a week ago. Mr Stewart was elected MP for the Western Isles in 1970 and served until he retired in 1987. He was president of the SNP from 1982 to 1987 and parliamentary leader from 1974 to 1987. Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "Donnie Stewart achieved the rare distinction of being universally respected by political friends and foe alike. Winnie Ewing, the SNP president and Euro MP for the Highlands and Islands, said Mr Stewart was "one of the most loved political figures of his day". Former SNP leader Gordon Wilson said Scotland had lost a great and good man.

Obituary, page 13

Officers visited house

Police were called to a house in north London ten days before two children were found strangled there on Saturday, Scotland Yard said yesterday. The children's mother voluntarily went to Stoke Newington police station on Saturday afternoon. Sharon Dawson, 23, is still being questioned by police after the bodies of Jason, six, and Natalia, five, were found at their home in Tottenham. Scotland Yard said yesterday that officers went to the house on August 12 in response to an anonymous call that screaming had been heard and questioned the woman who lived there but there was no sign of any disturbance. "Police officers saw a child in the house but there was obviously nothing amiss and there was no reason for the officer to take any action."

Police hold travellers

Nineteen travellers were arrested as police prevented an illegal festival at the Cissbury Ring iron age fort on the Sussex Downs. Chief Supt Frank Hooper said yesterday: "There is no doubt that, but for the action of police working in close co-operation with local authorities and landowners, Sussex would have been the venue for a major festival attracting thousands of people with all the disruption and misery this causes for local communities." A breakaway group of about 300 travellers held a party at a derelict school at Mark Cross, near Tunbridge Wells, before leaving yesterday under what police described as close supervision. Six travellers were arrested on Saturday for offences including drug possession, assault on police and vehicle theft. A further 13 were arrested yesterday.

Fireworks funeral



Jeff Thorp's last wish was granted when his ashes were launched across the Cheshire Plains in 28 giant fireworks, fired by his family and friends at the weekend. His son Peter, above, one of his six children, carried the rockets to the launch and the final one was lit by Elizabeth, nine. The rocket exploded, sending a shower of silver, red and green stars and Mr Thorp's ashes back down to the hillside. Mr Thorp's widow Janet, 43, said: "That's what Jeff wanted - to go out with a real bang, colouring the sunset with his ashes." Mr Thorp, of Rainow, near Macclesfield, Cheshire, died in April after a heart attack. Mrs Thorp was given clearance for the fireworks from the Civil Aviation Authority at Ringway. Planes were kept away during the 15-minute ceremony.

Union challenges TUC

The health union Cohse is to call for a two-year review of the TUC's functions and roles, including work done by all its departments and regions, as part of a debate on the movement's future, according to the TUC conference agenda, published today. Several motions about the role of the TUC after the election of the Conservatives for a fourth consecutive term are included in the final agenda for the annual conference, which opens in Blackpool on September 7. Cohse said the TUC must start to "refocus" its work while the review is being held, a suggestion also made by the Transport and General Workers' Union in a separate motion. The Union of Communication Workers, in another motion, urges a five-year business and policy plan to be drawn up by next year.

LPO conductor dies

Arthur Davison, who was leader of the London Philharmonic Orchestra for 30 years, died early yesterday, aged 74. Mr Davison, who suffered from cancer, died at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, Surrey. The Canadian-born musician had a distinguished record as a conductor at many of Britain's leading concert halls, and for more than 25 years he was musical director of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. In the 1960s his recordings for Music for Pleasure sold two million copies.

ARTHUR'S STORY

"I was really stupid. I boasted to my neighbour that I hoped to get away with £350 from my insurance company for alleged damage to a television set. Apparently the insurance company was already on to me and when my neighbour reported me it helped them. I was done for attempted theft, obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception and obtaining property by deception. They also found out about the non-disclosure of another claim and the fact that it was fraudulent. Now they're chasing me for recovery. I will have to pay them back, as well as the fine."

CHEATING ON INSURANCE IS A CRIME

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Insurance companies' CRIME-CHECK campaign to keep premiums down.

Draughts program blows hot and cold

By RAYMOND KEENE

THE human world draughts champion drew level with his computer challenger when the machine suffered what a computer expert described as "a nervous breakdown". Artificial brain surgeons spent the whole of Saturday night and most of yesterday tending to their creation.

Marion Tinsley of Florida and the Chinook computer program of Alberta, Canada, each has ten points at the halfway stage of the world championship at the Park Lane hotel, London.

There are 20 games left in the first man versus machine world title contest, which ends on August 29. Dr Tinsley, to the surprise of all draughts experts and commentators was trailing by two games to one with 14 draws after game 17. He has lost only five games to humans since becoming champion in 1984. But in game 18 he equalised in dramatic fashion.

Chinook, playing with the white pieces, had completed 18 moves and had to make only two more before the first time control when it started to show strange symptoms. After thinking for almost half an hour the machine an-

nounced that it would definitely make its move to avoid losing on time within the next three minutes.

Three minutes past and there was no move. Chinook revised its assessment, announcing on its screen that it would move within the next minute. Another minute past. Still no move. At this moment Chinook's chief programmer, Dr Jonathan Schaffer of the University of Alberta, stopped the clocks and asked for time to search for any bug or virus that might have infected his machine. This was granted but after a break the computer side announced that they had decided to resign the game and the scores were level again.

Dr Ayad Jassim, a computer expert and scientist, said: "Dr Tinsley has been increasing the power of his play. The relentless pounding he had administered has forced the computer to think much harder and its neural networks and circuits may have become overloaded. In other words the computer program has suffered a nervous breakdown, nothing that a good rest over the weekend shouldn't cure."

Microwave pinpoints tumours

A MICROWAVE device which could revolutionise the detection of breast cancer is being developed by a research team. Through a signal sensor scientists can pinpoint tumours and reveal them in two and three-dimensional images. Researchers believe that could become the main screening method because it can be repeatedly used without risk to patients.

A prototype device is being tested by a team at the Bristol Oncology Centre, part of the United Bristol Hospitals Trust. The team aims to refine the system to give 100 per cent accuracy in detecting tumours. A key feature is an electronic probe invented by Reg Johnston, a former employee of the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Malvern. He used microwave energy to image tumours. His sensing device, the shape of a small jam jar, transmits and receives minute amounts of microwaves. Healthy tissue absorbs little radio energy, but tumours strongly absorb it. The returning signal strength helps to create the computer images, produced in seconds by passing a sensor over the patient's skin.

By NICHOLAS WATT

Mr Ride said he felt ill when he thought of his brother. "I

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

Cutting the motorway speed limit to 50mph could save output of 5.16 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, a reduction of 7 per cent. Nitrogen oxide emissions would fall 11.7 per cent.

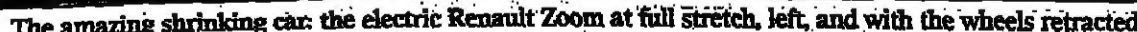
Mrs Ride said she wanted to thank the former prisoners jailed in Iraq who had spoken about her son. "They have been so helpful in advising us. They told us that as he has survived the first month he should be OK," she said.

Blast off: Linette and Elaine Hodges from Milton Keynes explore new frontiers at the festival yesterday

The twin themes of this week's meeting reflect the festival's location: oceans and energy. Southampton has a pioneering geothermal energy project and the university will open an oceanography centre in 1994.

There was no apology. As he was leaving the station, an policeman told him he had been suspected of being part of an international drugs ring. Mrs de Garis and the children were freed after spending several hours in an adjoining cell. She said yesterday: "Marvin was screaming for his dad and the police wouldn't let Marvin come out to go to the toilet and we weren't given anything to eat. We were all terrified."

Mrs de Garis's Labour MP, James Madden, has taken up the case and contacted Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.



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John Major, Prime Minister

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The Ryder Cheshire Mission and The World Memorial Fund For Disaster Relief.

Fairford mourns the loss of hundreds of 'over sexed, over paid and over here' Americans

Jobs fall victim as American military beats a quick retreat

COMMUNITIES throughout Britain are reeling from President Bush's decision in 1990 to wind down American military bases as he capitalises on the end of the Cold war. Shops and restaurants have folded as a guaranteed source of business disappears and, from Greenham Common in Berkshire to Holy Loch in Scotland, hundreds of locals have been laid off.

Today there are just over 26,000 American servicemen left in Britain, compared with nearly 100,000 at the height of the Cold war. American air bases alone are still worth £43,609,100 to the local economies. This will be reduced even further and might wither away.

Over the weekend, people in Suffolk were disappointed to hear that the defence ministry has abandoned plans to take over RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, two air bases the Americans are vacating next year. The Ministry of Defence had considered moving Harrier jump jets there.

President Bush's retreat

There are just 26,000 US servicemen left in Britain compared with 100,000 during the Cold war, Nicholas Watt reports

from Britain has been felt most acutely in Fairford, Gloucestershire, where 1,200 Americans were employed at the US air base. Since the staff was reduced to fewer than 60, a third of the town's workforce has lost its jobs, restaurants and hotels are struggling to cope, and the locals yearn for the base to reopen.

In Fairford you do not hear the cry that Americans are "over-sexed, over-paid, and over here". People look back fondly on the days when huge refuelling aircraft trundled down Fairford's 9,000ft runway. Hopes that the base would reopen were briefly raised during the Gulf war, when Fairford was used for B-52 bombers.

Mike Parker, president of the town's chamber of commerce, says: "I would estimate that at least 15 per cent of the

town worked at the base when it was up and running. This went up to more than 30 per cent, taking in all the jobs that were indirectly linked to the base. The closure has had a vast effect on local traders and it looks as if one hotel has had to call in the liquidators."

Leo D'Elia, an Italian who came to Fairford 21 years ago to set up a restaurant, reckons his trade has declined by 15 per cent since the Americans left. "We appreciated their custom and they appreciated our friendship," he says. "They came and entertained in my restaurant and often held leaving parties here. We do miss them very much."

Mr D'Elia, who proudly displays a picture of a B-52 signed by US airmen, was delighted when the American returned during the Gulf war. "The town was alive and

buzzing again and we renewed old acquaintances. But after five weeks it was all over and they returned home," he says.

It is not just the Americans' spending power that Fairford misses. The servicemen sensitively blended in with the community. They joined the local dart and cricket teams, sent their children to local schools and assiduously raised money for charity. In the best traditions of GIs, five local women married men from the base and a rumour was raised when an American woman left her husband for a Fairford man.

Today the base is on standby, which means it can quickly be pressed into service again. Flt Lt Dave Hume, the RAF commander of the base, says: "The airfield is ready for anything." But the base is so quiet it looks as if it would take some time to crank up again. Fire engines are lined up for action, but there is not an aircraft in sight and the hangar doors remain firmly closed.



Charm offensive: US forces at RAF Wethersfield entertaining the locals at a barbecue before the base closed

Britain remains in the US front line

AMERICAN forces in Britain have been cut so drastically that on paper President Bush's policy may look like a scramble to return home (writes Nicholas Watt). In fact, Britain is still a key US military centre.

From a red brick building in Grosvenor Square, central London, used by General Eisenhower during the second world war, a four-star American admiral, one of only ten, commands 23,000 naval forces in Europe, including the Sixth Fleet. Admiral Mike Boorda maintains a separate Nato staff in Naples.

As commander in chief of US naval forces in Europe, he has a staff of 300 in London. There are a further 350 naval staff, operating from Kensington, west London, who run the naval forces scattered around Britain. There are more than 1,000 naval personnel at bases from Edzell, Tayside, to Brandy Wells, Dyfed. Lt Cdr Jack Papp, a naval spokesman, said: "London is absolutely central to our operations. All our planning for exercises and contingency plans is done in London."

The US Air Force has 23,347 personnel working at six main bases. This will be reduced to four bases in 1994 when Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire is reduced to standby

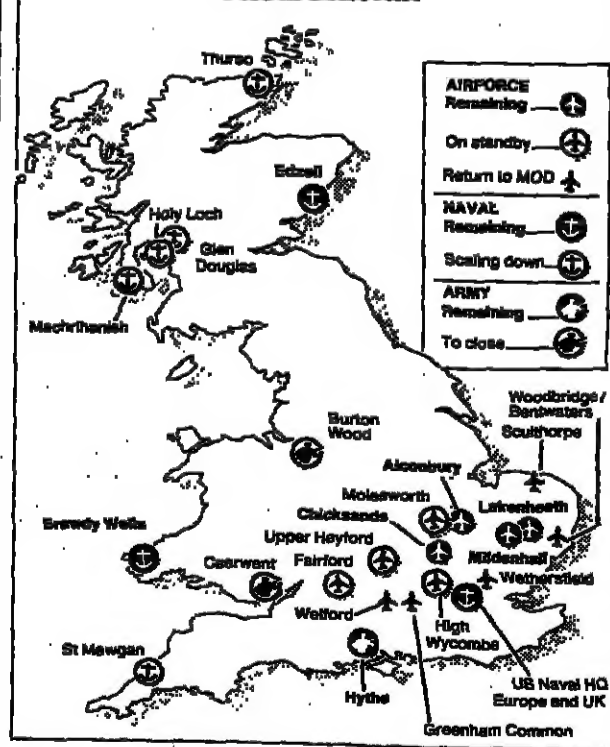
status, and Bentwaters and Woodbridge, Suffolk, are returned to the defence ministry.

The American air base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, which employs 4,872 Americans, is the largest of the four. It was used to launch F111s against Libya in 1986, and by next year will have a squadron of F15s. The base is worth about £87 million to the local economy. The other main air bases are at Alconbury, Cambridgeshire, a tactical communications centre with HC130 and MH53 helicopters and U2 aircraft; Mildenhall, Suffolk, a refuelling base flying KC135 tanker aircraft; and Chicksands, Bedfordshire, a secure communications centre.

The US Army has a few of personnel in Britain, at Burtonwood, Cheshire, and Caerwent, Wales. They will return home by 1995. A marine fleet based at Hythe, Hampshire, will remain for the moment.

General Sir John Hadden, commander of the northern army group in Nato from 1966 to 1968, says the US forces were a key factor in stabilising East-West tension. "I fear that the numbers of troops have diminished too quickly. The disintegration of the Soviet Union has left so many unanswered questions that the American troops are no less important today," he said.

AMERICAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM BRITAIN



Apartheid founder's grandson joins ANC

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

WILHELM Verwoerd, a grandson of Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, has joined the African National Congress as a result of what he describes as a "political awakening" at Oxford University.

Dr Verwoerd, 30, was a Rhodes scholar when Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990. He is studying for a doctorate at Stellenbosch University, the traditional establishment for Afrikaner leaders. Dr Verwoerd has followed his wife Melanie, a fellow student at Stellenbosch, into the ANC. Both first came into contact with the organisation's activists at Oxford.

earlier this year. She told newspapers in South Africa: "We hope that our work within the ANC will, in some small way, make up for the hurt caused to so many people by Dr Verwoerd, the Verwoerd name and the policy of apartheid which he personified."

As prime minister, Hendrik Verwoerd banned the ANC in 1960. His son, Professor Wilhelm Verwoerd, is a member of the pro-apartheid Conservative party in Stellenbosch, and his 91-year-old widow Bessie, has moved to the remote, whites-only settlement of Orania. Melanie Verwoerd's family are also staunch supporters of the National Party.

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The northwest coast of Wales continues to attract visitors, but they are more careful with their money

Beauty of Barmouth draws the trippers

STANDING on the craggy hills at Barmouth, Gwynedd, on Wales's northwest coast, with the wind tearing at your shirt and the mist billowing past as you look out to the beautiful sea of Cardigan Bay, it is easy to believe the saloon bar boast that "God is a Welshman". The views here are seldom short of breathtaking.

The town centre has amusements, tourist shops, pubs, hotels and lots of fast food. On sunny days, coachloads of shell-suited Brummies descend for the day. They seldom stray far from the town's new leisure centre on the seaford, however, and a short walk in the other direction will give you plenty of space on the beach.

Other visitors to the town tend to be hikers and campers. The bay is popular with windsurfers and waterskiers.

Peter Victor visits a traditional resort striving to serve modern demands in the latest of a Times series

agent Hudson said it currently has seven hotels on its books, ranging from a small bed and breakfast house at £80,000 to a 36-bed hotel costing £185,000.

The situation does show some positive signs, Hudson said. A small hotel last spring and the Cors Y Gedol is currently thought to be under offer. "These things tend to go in cycles," the spokesman said. "When this office opened 12 years ago there were a lot of guest houses on the market which were very tiny and the owners were having difficulty with cash flow. We don't have any like that now."

The local tourist office and local authorities are unable to provide statistics on visitor numbers or spending. But statistics from Mid Wales Tourism shows that visitors to Barmouth's tourist information centre have increased. There were 42,674 visitors in 1989, 43,265 in 1990 and 45,508 last year. The centre made 844 bed bookings in 1989, jumping to 2,883 in 1990. By 1991, however, the figure had dropped back down to 2,356.

Businesses in the town report that while the number of customers seems as high as ever, people are being more careful with their cash. This is supported by Mid Wales Tourism's figures on the average spending by visitors. In the three years to 1991, the average number of nights per trip increased from 4.8 to five while average spending fell from £115 to £103.

Prices in the resort are fairly reasonable, though by no means cheap. A pint of stout costs around £1.50. A plate of chips comes in at between £1.70 and £2.00 for take away and a bit more if you want to sit in out of the weather. But bed and breakfast can be had for as little as £11 a night. The top hotel at present will cost you £56.

The beach is excellent, with about seven miles of soft, golden sand. The sea meets

EC regulations on purity but the town lost its blue flag when the criteria were changed to include seaside amenities. Car parking is reasonable — around 40 pence an hour — and there is plenty within short walking distance of the beach. Even the local traffic warden is reasonable, pointing out that I had half an hour's grace and could finish my pub lunch before moving the car from a yellow line.

Without a doubt the surrounding countryside is Barmouth's greatest attraction. Points of historic interest dot the Mawddach estuary. The area is surrounded by excellent walks and the 2,927ft high Cader Idris is a short drive away.

Mr. Clay stressed that the traders were trying to promote the town in tandem with the local authority and the tourist board. "We've just done a mailshot and we have an ongoing programme out of a locally generated budget. This is an extremely pleasant place and I believe more could be done to promote it."



Sunset over Barmouth: The resort boasts a bay popular with windsurfers and waterskiers, seven miles of golden beaches and excellent walking

Population: 3,000.

Beach: to EC standards; miles of golden sands, leisure centre, tennis, bowls. Other attractions: narrow gauge railway to Fairbourne. Pony trekking. Nearby: Cader Idris, old volcanic mountain.

and its harbour is the starting point for the Three Peaks yacht race.

Like most tourist spots, however, Barmouth is feeling the pinch. The Cors Y Gedol, formerly the town's largest and grandest hotel, stands boarded up, a victim of the changing patterns of tourism.

In the past, visitors would travel by train to Barmouth, staying at the hotel for a week or two. Now they drive and stay in bed and breakfast hotels or come by coach for the day. Even the bed and breakfast hotels are seeing fewer visitors. Those that are not posted for sale in estate agents' windows would gladly sell up for a reasonable price, according to David Clay, a spokesman for the local town traders. "The heydays have gone and I don't see them coming back in the near future," Don Dowden, chairman of the local council, agreed.

A spokesman for the estate



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Soldier, 17 accused of killing

A soldier will appear in court today charged with manslaughter after his colleague on guard duty at a Hampshire barracks died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Sapper Stuart Nield, 17, from Cheshire, who serves with the Royal Engineers stationed at the Gibraltar Barracks, near Farnborough, will appear before Aldershot magistrates. Police yesterday named the dead man as Sapper Paul Bartlett, 20, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, serving in the Royal Engineers at Frintley, Surrey.

The incident happened on Saturday night at the barracks. Sapper Bartlett was taken to Frintley Park Hospital but was found to be dead on arrival.

Four wounded

Police are hunting a knife man who injured four men in Blackpool early yesterday. The first victim was slashed in the face outside a promenade arcade. The attacker then stabbed a man in a clash about a taxi fare and slashed the victim's two friends. The four injured, all in their twenties, are recovering in hospitals in Blackpool and Preston.

Drugs hearing

A 34-year-old man of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, will appear in court at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, today on drugs charges after being arrested by detectives in possession of amphetamine sulphate valued at more than £30,000. He has been charged with possessing a controlled drug and possessing with intent to supply.

Bond winners

Weekend premium bond winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 28PL 624826, of Essex, value of holding £5,470; £50,000, 28SF 862657, Stratford-upon-Avon, £10,000; £25,000, 19DW 886420, Hereford, £10,000.

Illegal catches worry fishermen

CONCERN is growing in the fishing industry over "black" catches caught in defiance of European Community quotas. Ports are buzzing with tales of trawlers berthing at night and unloading catches before sailing again.

Some reports suggest that up to 30 per cent of fish landed in some British ports has been caught in excess of the catch allowed by Brussels. This has led to claims that black catches are so large they are depressing market prices for fish caught under the quota system.

Low prices have resulted in some suppliers of haddock, cod, whiting and plaice being turned into animal fodder. Shop prices, however, have hardly changed.

Peter Chaplin, chief executive of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, said: "Everything indicates it [black fishing] has got worse this year. Anecdotal evidence suggests it could be 20 to 30 per cent of the catch, possibly more."

Maurice Taylor, chairman of United Fish Products, a fish meal company in Aberdeen, said: "It is a multimillion-pound business. It appears to be happening very openly." In some markets, the illegal fish outweighed the legal catches, he said.

Richard Banks, chief executive of the Grimsby-based National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, said the practice was endemic in many Scottish ports.

The Scottish Office said: "There is a problem but it is not a multimillion-pound trade. Our protection officers are out 24 hours a day and there have been prosecutions."

Jail union's powers threatened

Tories open prisons to private teaching

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE prison education service is to be privatised in the latest of several developments designed to introduce greater variety and efficiency into jails in England and Wales.

Advertisements announcing the government's intention to seek tenders from the private, voluntary and public sectors were published yesterday. The Home Office plans to issue formal invitations for competitive tenders in the autumn. It is intended that contracts will be let for individual prisons or for groups of penal institutions to operate the education services for an initial three-year period.

The announcement that ministers are to press ahead with market testing of education facilities in prisons was made on the eve of today's meeting of the Prison Officers' Association national executive on the privatisation of Strangeways, in Manchester. The union leadership must decide whether to back plans by the prison service manage-

ment to compete with the private sector in tendering to run the jail.

Senior executive members recognise the union's dilemma as it becomes clear that the government's tactics are intended to weaken the union's position by privatising prisons and putting more services out to competitive tendering. The first privatised remand prison, at the Wolds on Humber, is run by Group 4. Other prisons have contracted out catering services. There are plans to privatise the courts escort service, and prison reform groups think dog-handling and some nighttime security patrolling could also be put out for tendering.

Although the staff at Strangeways, the first established jail to be privatised, are said to support an in-house bid by the prison service management, the union's national executive last week decided that there should be more talks with its membership before they reach a decision on whether to support a bid. Yesterday's announcement that ministers are to press ahead and put the prison education service out to competitive tender will focus the minds of the national executive on the danger the union faces if it fails to back an in-house bid. Although such a bid could result in a loss of jobs among its members, if the union stands aside at Strangeways it risks the contract being awarded to a private company, which would almost certainly mean the loss of hundreds of prison service jobs at the jail.

Changes to the education service became inevitable when the government ended local education authorities' responsibility for higher education, including education in jails. The provision of education and training is seen as a key part of prison life, intended to give inmates a better chance of finding employment when they are released and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Changes to the education service became inevitable when the government ended local education authorities' responsibility for higher education, including education in jails. The provision of education and training is seen as a key part of prison life, intended to give inmates a better chance of finding employment when they are released and reduce the risk of reoffending.



Lucrative habit: Martin Dove has won 500 prizes

Contests addict to run course

MARTIN Dove is a lecturer with a craving. Next month he plans to run a course to teach his habit to others (Paul Wilkinson writes).

For the past 22 years Mr Dove, 44, has been a compulsive competition entrant, picking up leaflets in petrol stations, diverting his supermarket trolley to collect the special-label tins, cutting to the bone off cereal packets. He says his efforts have brought about 500 prizes, from microwave ovens to holidays.

Mr Dove, who gave up a career in retailing two years ago to become a part-time college lecturer in leisure studies, has never gone more than three months without a win, entering at least a dozen competitions a week. He once won an ocean-going yacht.

Mr Dove plans to run a ten-week night school course at the Yorkshire Coast College in Scarborough, to open up what many people regard as an occasional fluster and promote competition entering as a popular British leisure habit second only to television watching.

Warm-water fish stray into British waters



Exotic species appearing in the Irish Sea may be another sign of global warming, Michael McCarthy reports in the fourth of his series

INCREASING intrusions of warm-water fish species and other sea life into the waters of southern and western Britain may be indicators of climate change, some marine biologists believe.

A body of records, growing rapidly over the last five years, shows fish that breed further south in the Atlantic, or in the Mediterranean, turning up in British waters from Cornwall and Devon to the Channel coast to the Irish Sea and Scotland.

Some, which have been infrequent visitors in the past, are now being seen in numbers. These include the basking shark, which is at the northeastern limit of its range, and the red mullet and triggerfish, essentially Mediterranean species. Others, such as the scaly-rayed wrasse or the seahorse, are being recorded for the first time in decades: a few, such as the short-beaked garfish, have been recorded in British waters for the first time.

The numbers are attracting the attention of many marine scientists. "The current state of intrusions is the most obvious I can recall," says David Garrod, director of the government's Fisheries Research Laboratory at Lowestoft, Suffolk. He believes that it is still too early to say that they are global warming indicators.

However, Professor Alan Southward of the Marine Biological Association (MBA) in Plymouth thinks they may represent the beginning of climate change. "Fish are mobile. If the environment changes they will try to move with it," he says.

He partly bases his belief on the Russell Cycle, a long-term monitoring programme in the western Channel run by the MBA, which, until it was scrapped by the government in 1988, showed from about 1980 onwards a steady build-up of warm-water species of small marine animals. Such statistics are rare, however, and most of the evidence about new or more abundant warm-water species is anecdotal. But it is increasingly weighty.

Dr Garrod at Lowestoft suggested that a prime indicator of rising temperatures would be an increased presence of basking sharks such as is now being recorded by scientists at Liverpool University's Fort Erin marine laboratory on the Isle of Man.

"We are now seeing large concentrations of basking sharks off the island," said Steve Hawkins, a senior lecturer. "When I was first here in the seventies, we might see the odd one. Now they are

here in numbers. Every summer there are lots around." Recently, Dr Hawkins has been seeing other unexpected visitors in Manx waters, including red mullet and cuttlefish. "Something is happening to the system which is causing long-term scale changes," he said. "It's an enigma. I wouldn't like to say it is global warming, but something is happening to the ecosystem."

The Marine Biological Association is setting up a data base of all fish whose distribution has either a southerly or a northerly limit in British waters, so that species straying outside their normal range can be pinpointed. Geoffrey Potts and Sija Swaby, the scientists responsible, already have a fat file of recent evidence on intruders from the south including such Mediterranean species as the gilt-head bream (the celebrated *daurade* beloved of gourmets), the meagre, and the dusky perch.

In a recent paper on the



Trigger fish: once seen only infrequently

capture off Cornwall of the short-beaked garfish, Dr Potts, Miss Swaby, and the author of the standard work on British marine fishes, Alwyn Wheeler, write: "The increase in temperature over the last five years has led to an increase in southern species in the western Channel. The changes in distribution and abundance of rare and unusual fishes, and especially those on the edges of their distribution, may be yet another example of the biological consequence of climatic change."

Even native British species are showing changes which can be related to temperature, according to Peter Henderson, of Fawley Aquatic Research Laboratories in Southampton. Dr Henderson monitors the regular capture of fish by the screens of power station cooling-water intakes, especially at Hinkley Point on the Bristol Channel in Somerset. In recent years, bass, pout and a swimming crab have all shown increases directly related to rises in temperature, while another species, the sea snail, has shown a fall which can be similarly related, he says.

Students leap at a licence to clown

Today: Boutros Boutros Ghali, UN secretary-general, arrives in London for peace talks on Bosnia and Croatia. Publication of trade figures. Opening day in Southampton of annual conference of the British Association. Doctors set up exhibition in Devon to warn holidaymakers of dangers of over-exposure to the sun.

Tomorrow: interim results from British Gas. Sale of rock and pop memorabilia in London by Phillips. Wednesday: John Major jointly chairs talks on Bosnia and Croatia with Mr Boutros Ghali. League Against Cruel Sports launches a private prosecution of two members of the Quorn Hunt, alleging firearms offences.

Thursday: GCSE results expected. Original hand-written lyrics of Beatles hits go under the hammer at Sotheby's. Anniversary of collapse of hardliners' coup in former Soviet Union. Pensioners march to Downing Street to present a petition in support of a charter.

Friday: conference on Bosnia and Croatia expected to end. CBI publishes monthly trends survey. The Edinburgh Television Festival opens. Saturday: travellers plan to stage illegal White Goddess festival in Cornwall, which last year attracted 5,000 people. Up to 20,000 expected to attend an official rave party on Popham airfield, Hampshire. Sunday: Two-day Notting Hill carnival starts. Radio 1 celebrates 25th birthday with free concert in Birmingham.

CLOWNING could soon bring students a higher education diploma. Skills such as trapeze work, acrobatics, juggling and balancing will be taught on Britain's first vocational training course in circus performance.

The course will be offered by Fool Time, a circus school, in a joint project with Bristol Polytechnic, soon to become the University of the West of England at Bristol. Thirty places are planned for the first intake in September 1994. After two years of study with experts, successful students will gain a Diploma in Higher Education.

Classes will be held at Kingswood Training School, a former reformatory and Fool Time's new headquarters from next month, where £3 million of renovations will create five main training and performance halls, a gymnasium, a lecture theatre, a library and rooms for 50 students.

Fool Time currently trains more than 1,000 people a year in various courses combining traditional big top skills with theatre, dance, music and mime. Richard Ward, the director, said many of the teachers were established circus performers. Fool Time would make Britain a focus for performers and students from all over the world.

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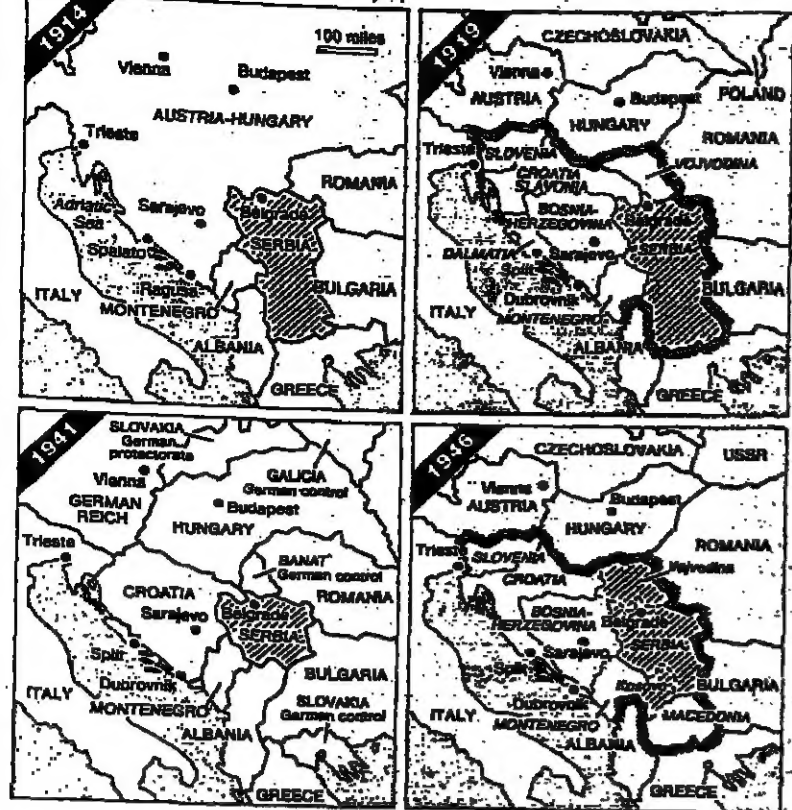
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Bosnia hopes to buy time as knives are sharpened for a carve-up



Old enemies: Since the first shots in Sarajevo in June 1992, the Serbian problem has been a key element in Balkan politics. The 1919 kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes crumbled under the German wartime onslaught. The enmities forged then between Croats, Muslims and Serbs surfaced after the collapse of Tito's Yugoslavia. Now Serbs hope to create Greater Serbia out of the rubble — by diplomacy or by armed force.

CAN one make peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina without carving it up? That will be the central, if submerged, question in this week's London peace conference.

The talks are intended to show that Lord Carrington and the European Community have not run out of breath in the task of silencing the guns and reordering the former Yugoslavia.

Serbia will find itself exposed to criticism. There will be talk of a war crimes tribunal and of ways of tightening economic sanctions against Belgrade. But even seemingly simple matters do not yield easy diplomatic solutions and the timing is that the conference will do little more than maintain the impetus of the peace process.

The closing of detention camps is a case in point. The Serbian government has already offered to hand all the prisoners (perhaps 150,000) over to the International Red Cross or the United Nations. Yet these international organisations are not able to handle

POLITICAL MAP

The London peace talks seem unlikely to prevent redrawn frontiers, writes Roger Boyes

such large numbers on the spot. To transport them out of Bosnia would make the UN and the Red Cross party to "ethnic cleansing". To let the prisoners fend for themselves outside the camps would be to invite new killings. To keep them in the camps, as winter approaches, would also put their lives at risk.

The humanitarian problem, in other words, needs political answers. "Ethnic cleansing", the brutal razing of villages, the rapes and nightly terror, have to be stopped. That requires the threat of Western force, quick, credible promises from Serb and Croat leaders, and a web of guarantees for those who are brave enough to return to

their shattered communities. Only a United Nations protectorate can stop and reverse the "ethnic cleansing", although the UN experience in eastern Croatia is not encouraging.

For different reasons, most of the key players accept a UN protectorate as a transitional solution in Bosnia. The Serbs and Croats want the UN to stake out their captured land; the Muslims hope to buy time to restore the working of the Bosnian state. Can the UN afford such a huge deployment, and can it move quickly enough? A political response to "ethnic cleansing" that merely passes the buck to a reluctant and financially strapped UN is not going to work. An overall settlement has to be devised and that may be beyond the scope of the London conference.

More likely is that President Franjo Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader, will use their time in London to work out a stand-off agreement and draw up a new map of Bosnia.

Warring parties look to UN for solution

FROM ROGER BOYES IN KLISA, EASTERN CROATIA

THE United Nations has settled down nicely in the former battlefield of eastern Croatia. Despite the heat, young soldiers in blue UN caps and running shorts jog among the ruins of Vukovar. The Canadian soldiers have set up their own Vukovar Wrestling Federation and have improvised an ice hockey rink (without ice) in a garage evacuated by the Yugoslav army.

Twenty miles away in Klisa, the Russian contingent lives mainly in tents, gaudily decorated with cardboard boxes. A few keep fit lifting weights made from scraps of ruined tanks. This is Sector East, the site of a year ago of long, bloody battles and now part of the UN protection zone.

About 14,000 soldiers from the UN Protection Force are guarding the peace not only in eastern Croatia but also in western Slavonia and Knin. They also hurdle around Zagreb in their Jeeps, offing the girls like off-duty GIs. Can this same UN force, perhaps increased as much as tenfold, keep the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

Almost all the warring sides now say that they would accept a UN protectorate. Only the Muslims and the ultra-right Croatian HOS oppose the idea. In an interview, Dobroslov Paraga, the HOS leader, expressed fear that the "UN would simply keep the status quo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as it has been doing in Croatia". The point, he said, was to drive the Serbs back and punish their aggression.

Certainly, the reasoning of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, is that a UN protectorate would freeze his conquest — 70 per cent of Bosnia is in Serb hands — and allow them to complete his "ethnic cleansing".

The Croatian government, which many believe is committed secretly to dismembering Bosnia, also believes that the time is right for the UN. Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, is not so sure, but is open to persuasion.

A UN protectorate — as opposed merely to securing a land corridor from the Adriatic coast to Sarajevo — would be an immense undertaking.

There are different variants. The UN could take over the administration of the whole country in its old frontiers, setting up a form of transitional rule until a political solution is found.

Not only would that require large troop deployment, it would also demand political sophistication. In Bosnian society — from village councils to the post service, from the police to the broadcasting authority — jobs were shared out on an ethnic basis according to the relative proportions of Muslims, Serbs and Croats. All that has collapsed; if the UN took over responsibility, it would have to rebuild the state from scratch.

A more modest goal would be for the UN to protect the Muslim pockets of Bihać and around Sarajevo and to set up a mechanism allowing exiled Bosnians to return to their homes. That would involve direct confrontation with Serbs and Croats. The most

limited, but still tricky, mission would be to take over Sarajevo and re-establish it as the administrative centre of the Bosnian state. It is difficult to see how any of these tasks could be accomplished with less than 100,000 UN ground troops and without great financial outlay.

The UN cannot solve the political problems whose authority holds sway in captured Croatian territory? Croatian? Serbian? Yugoslav? This complexity reaches new heights in Bosnia, where there is no meaningful redress for complaints, where no courts function, where policemen are usually the enemy.

To the London conference the UN "solution" may seem an attractive, diplomatic alternative to armed intervention, but the West, and above all the European Community, will have to work out quickly how to pay the bill. We are entering the era of high-cost and high-risk diplomacy.



Boys and girls come out to play: Croat children wielding wooden swords and shields pass the time with war games in the streets of Zagreb

Arch-enemies may drop bluster and strike deal

By ROGER BOYES

A SUPERMARKET manager, a psychiatrist, the son of an Orthodox priest, a former political prisoner and one of the "UN" would simply keep the status quo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as it has been doing in Croatia". The point, he said, was to drive the Serbs back and punish their aggression.

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linking with the reformers of the Croatian "Spring" of 1970-71 he was jailed and lost his position. Since then he has been writing books that reassess Croatia's wartime history. On the basis of one such work, *Wasteland*, he has been accused of anti-Semitism. He denies the charges, but there is no doubting that he has an authoritarian bent.

Mr Milosevic lives in isolation and even his closest aides sometimes have problems reaching him. He is a complex man with a family history of instability: his father, a priest, left his mother and committed suicide. Subsequently, his mother also took her own life.

But when Mr Milosevic appears in public, he shows that he is an expert manipulator of crowds. He is regarded, like Dr Tudjman, as a supreme puller of strings, setting up proxies in Bosnia and in Serbian politics.

Dr Tudjman enters the London conference backed

by firm Western allies — Germany and Austria among them — and, having recently won an election, with a relatively firm political base.

Mr Milosevic, irritated by a growing opposition movement in Belgrade, has no such assurance. But he does have a long-standing personal relationship with the acting American Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger (a former ambassador to Yugoslavia) and of course he retains a big chunk of captured territory. Moreover, the anti-Serbian mood in the West is being tempered by claims of Croatian camps and atrocities, and reports that Muslims may have been firing on their own people in Bosnia to trigger a military intervention.

The ability of Mr Milosevic and Dr Tudjman to strike a deal, despite the public bluster, is illustrated by the behaviour of their wardrobes. The

former supermarket manager, Mate Boban, now rules captured western Herzegovina as if it were part of Croatia. He has not pushed into eastern Herzegovina, evidently because of a deal with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs. Mr Boban is wholly accountable to Dr Tudjman, and it is claimed a tacit agreement has been reached to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr Karadzic, a psychiatrist and poet, is less subordinate to Mr Milosevic. It would be difficult but not impossible for Mr Milosevic to topple him. Will Dr Karadzic surrender some of his captured territory if the Serbian leader so demands? Probably not, but much will depend on the contacts in London between the two men: neither has yet fully grasped the level of international hostility to their cause.

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia set out his philosophical credentials in a 1990 work called *The Islamic Decl-*

laration. The document tries to wed Islam to modern democratic values and to apply them to Bosnia. Serb readers say that Mr Izetbegovic, who was a political prisoner for many years, is an Islamic fundamentalist who would squeeze out the Serb minority and stamp out the Orthodox Church. However, until the war began in the spring he successfully kept together a tolerant multicultural society. Now Croatian sources claim that he may indeed try to build up a militant Islamic country from the rubble.

He has found an odd ally in Dobroslov Paraga, a law student, 32, the leader of Croatia's black-shirted Party of Rights, who has not been invited to London. Unlike Dr Tudjman, Mr Paraga is against cantonisation and wants Bosnia-Herzegovina to remain its old frontiers. However, his next steps would be a "democratic" fusion of Bosnia with Croatia to form a united Croatian state.

Cheshire Regiment is put on standby

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE British contingent which could be flown to Bosnia within the next few weeks began to take shape last night as men of The Cheshire Regiment were put on standby in Germany.

All leave for the 650 men of the regiment, stationed in Fallingb., north of Hannover, has been cancelled as senior officers draw up detailed plans for their deployment. The Cheshires are part of the 7th Armoured Brigade, known as the Desert Rats, and are equipped with Warrior armoured troop carriers, considered ideal for protecting the men whose main job will be to escort relief convoys to besieged towns and cities.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed last night that the Cheshires had been told to stand by to move, but insisted no firm decision had yet been taken. "The ball is now firmly

in the United Nations court", said a spokesman. "We have said that we will supply up to 1,800 men if needed, but so far we have had no firm indication of how many they will ask for, or indeed when and if they will move."

It is likely that the Cheshires would be boosted by a squadron of light tanks from the 9th/12th Royal Lancers which could be used as advanced reconnaissance vehicles and men from 33 Regiment Royal Engineers, a combat engineering unit.

A large number of back-up units — from Royal Signals, REME, military police, Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport — were alerted to await further orders to move.

Moscow uneasy over Kazakh wooing of Muslims

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AS RUSSIA celebrated the first anniversary of its victory over the coup plotters last week and Ukraine marked its first year of independence, Kazakhstan — the third largest of the former Soviet republics — was quietly courting the two biggest Muslim areas of Russia.

The facts are sketchy, but the initiative looks at the very least like an attempt to curb Russia's dominance of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and a bid to lead the Muslims of the former Soviet Union across national boundaries. At most, it may be the start of a move by Kazakhstan to restore a semblance of the Soviet Union, but without the ideology.

On August 19, a year to the day since the tanks rolled into Moscow, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Tatarstan Shaimiev of Tatarstan and Muratbek Rakhimov, chairman of the regional parlia-

ment of Bashkortostan (formerly Bashkiria), met in the city of Ural'sk in Kazakhstan. The meeting, followed by reports of a tax revolt against Moscow by Tatarstan and Bashkortostan — both of which have oil deposits and strategic industries — and the north-eastern republic of Yakutia, which is rich in minerals and precious stones. The rebels were said to have signed a letter protesting Russia had reneged on an agreement allowing them to retain more revenue.

Only Mr Rakhimov admitted signing the protest. But this evidence of dissatisfaction seems to have been sufficient to persuade Kazakhstan that an initiative to its Muslim near-neighbours might be well received. Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, both republics of the Russian Federation with a large Muslim population and aspirations to full independence, adjoin each other and are separated from Kazakhstan by a narrow strip of Russia's Orenburg region.

At the close of their Ural'sk meeting, the three leaders issued a joint statement which revealed the importance they attach to their common Muslim identity and that they would like to mend the economic ties broken when the Soviet Union disintegrated. Both priorities set them apart from Russia, which is increasingly emphasising its Slavonic identity and the market economy.

Russia was worried enough about the Ural'sk meeting to summon Tatarstan officials and offer them increased credits and help with converting their military industries.

However, Kazakhstan has much to gain from closer relations with Russia's Muslims. Northern Kazakhstan is populated largely by Russians and Ukrainians and there are periodic calls for the Russian border to be altered to take in these Slavs. By establishing a

relationship with Russia's Muslims, the Kazakhstan leader has a bargaining counter against any Russian claims.

Second, Mr Nazarbayev may be concerned by the growth in Islamic fundamentalism in neighbouring Tajikistan. If the Islamic influence there strengthens, he may want support for taking his republic towards a more Turkish than Iranian style of Islam.

Third, there is evidence that President Nazarbayev is trying to garner support for turning the Commonwealth into a union, with a central administration and possibly a head of state. The former president of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, last week supported such a policy and attributed it to Mr Nazarbayev whom, he said, would table proposals at next month's meeting of Commonwealth heads of state.

"Mr Nazarbayev appears to be hanker after a forum larger than Kazakhstan. Moreover,

the conceptual gap between himself and the Russian leaders on the nature of the Commonwealth is growing ever wider, as Russia bends towards the market and leaves each republic to fend for itself.

Any attempt to form a new union is probably doomed, because the dominant members — Russia and Ukraine — have already progressed far towards full statehood. But if Kazakhstan pitches its appeal not at Russia but at the discontented republics in Russia, Moscow would be significantly weakened and compelled at least to listen to the grievances both of its Muslim republics, and of the Commonwealth's less developed members, such as Kazakhstan.

Armenians killed: Armenians yesterday accused Azerbaijan of fresh bombing raids on the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and said at least 36 people had been killed over the weekend and 200 wounded. (Reuters)

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Armenians killed: Armenians yesterday accused Azerbaijan of fresh bombing raids on the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and said at least 36 people had been killed over the weekend and 200 wounded. (Reuters)

ITALIAN NOTEBOOK by Philip Willan

Socialists attempt to cut Milan's anti-corruption hero down to size

THE Italian Socialist Party is showing signs of impatience with the Milan corruption enquiry, which has tarnished its reputation more than that of any other party and which earlier this year cost Bettino Craxi the premiership.

In a front-page editorial yesterday the party newspaper, *Avanti!*, launched a coded attack on Antonio Di Pietro, the best known of the Milan magistrates investigating the payment of kickbacks on public service and construction contracts in northern Italy.

Signor Di Pietro's judicial war on political corruption has made him a national hero. People wear T-shirts proclaiming their support for him and throw "Di Pietro parties". One wine grower says she will be naming a white wine after the magistrate.

But for *Avanti!*, "not all that

glitters is gold". The newspaper rejects recent suggestions that Signor Di Pietro could be a target for assassination. "If anything, there are other risks facing Signor Di Pietro," it said. It goes on to criticise "various unclear and unconvincing aspects" of his enquiry, adding: "It could even emerge that Signor Di Pietro is not at all the hero one often hears describes."

Avanti! did not elaborate, thus angering several political commentators. The Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* invited *Avanti!* to reveal what, if anything, it knew, out of respect for the citizens of Italy "who prefer facts to allusions".

Italians have little reason to love their political parties and still less reason to love the state. As Italy attempts to get its soaring budget deficit under control, the tax authorities

appear determined to turn public irritation into outright hatred. The chosen technique is a combination of new or vastly increased taxes with a chronically disorganised bureaucracy.

Citizens now have to cope with a retroactive increase in the fees to be paid for passport and driving licences. One way of paying the tax is by purchasing special stamps at a tobacconist shop. The only trouble is that most tobacconists soon ran out of stamps so the finance ministry told people to pay at the post office, which are less easy to find and already boast long queues. But then Giovanni Goria, the finance minister, backtracked on his decision and had new stamps printed, sending apologies from his holiday haunt in Africa.

Clinton and resurgent Bush get down to the real mud-slinging



Family figure: President Bush hugs a doll of his wife, Barbara, on a campaign stop in Georgia at the weekend

PRESIDENT Bush and Bill Clinton took off their gloves this weekend and launched into a 10-week slugging match for the White House that promises to make the shameful campaign of 1988 look gentlemanly.

With polls showing Mr Bush right back in contention following last week's Republican convention, the two candidates traded abuse and accusations as they careered round the battleground states. Mr Bush and his supporters accused the Democrats of turning their back on God, championing family values worthy of Woody Allen, conniving with a tax-and-spend Congress to plunder the national budget, and a pathological compulsion to pander to the audience of the moment. The Clinton camp accused the president of dismal economic failure, lying about the Arkansas governor's own economic plans and record, being in hock to the religious right, and promising anything in his desperation to retain the perks and privileges of power.

The emerging media consensus was that the Houston convention had been brutal and unsavoury, and that Mr Bush's promise of tax cuts financed by spending reductions was pie in the sky. "Purely re-election bait," *The Washington Post* commented, saying Mr Bush had unveiled in his Thursday night speech "no plan to govern in a second term or to remedy what ails the economy".

The New York Times said Mr Bush's programme made "no economic sense" and condemned the convention's "numbingly repetitive attacks on Congress and coarse slurs

The gloves are off for what is expected to be the most negative presidential campaign yet seen, Martin Fletcher writes from Washington

about the Clintons". *The Los Angeles Times* described the programme as "a pale gesture". The liberal columnist Anthony Lewis said he could not recall a convention so "mean in spirit".

The convention nevertheless gave Mr Bush the "bounce" he had banked on. Weekend polls showed he had halved his opponent's pre-convention lead of 15 to 25 points. He was shown to be trailing by 14 points (*Newsweek*), 11 points (*Time*), nine points (*The Washington Post*) and eight (*The Los Angeles Times*).

"This is the most open, fickle, volatile electorate we have ever seen," said Peter Hart, a Democratic pollster, and a continuing effort by Ross Perot to get on all 50 state ballots could further complicate matters. The billionaire is not campaigning, but his name on the ballot would give protest voters an option that could yet cost Mr Bush the key state of Texas.

Mr Bush strove to build on the convention with a strenuous weekend's campaigning in the South, the base of his party's so-called "electoral

lock", and in the industrialised Midwest, where the election could well be decided. James Baker yesterday resigned as Secretary of State formally to take charge of the campaign.

Having grabbed Friday's headlines with his tax-cut promise, Mr Bush barely mentioned it again and refused to detail the spending cuts required to fulfil it. In Mississippi he accused Mr Clinton of proposing \$220 billion (£113 billion) in new spending and \$150 billion in new taxes.

In Georgia he watched Newt Gingrich, the Republican House whip, suggest Woody Allen's "non-incest" with his non-daughter because they were a non-family... fits the Democratic platform perfectly.

The conservative evangelist Jerry Falwell called Houston

"the best convention the Republicans have had", but James Carville, Mr Clinton's top strategist, commented: "We don't believe American families want Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell and Pat Buchanan defining their values."

On a bus tour through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York state, Mr Clinton retailed with his harshest attacks yet. The president had lied about not raising taxes, lied about his opponent's record, and was "personally untrustworthy". He had the worst economic record of any president in 50 years and was a "great fearmonger" whose party convention was "the most negative in anybody's memory".

Anthony Howard, page 10
Leading article, page 11

US ready to impose no-fly zone on Iraq this week

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AS THE Bush administration prepared to send more warplanes to the Gulf to supplement sea and land-based aircraft already stationed there, the White House said it was closer to declaring a no-fly zone in southern Iraq and that President Bush would probably make an announcement tomorrow.

American, British and French diplomats at the United Nations were also putting finishing touches to a diplomatic note warning Iraq not to fly south of the 32nd parallel. The allies' envoys are expected now to hand the document to the Iraqi ambassador at the UN tomorrow, or even late today.

Russia came out firmly in support of the West's tough policy at the weekend, with a foreign ministry statement accusing Baghdad of playing political games and pledging full support for "all necessary

measures" to implement United Nations decisions. The statement aligned Moscow unambiguously with the Western position and seemed intended to quell doubts about Russia's continuing commitment to UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq, including the use of force.

For the first time in the latest Gulf showdown, Iraq declared yesterday that it would respond militarily to the imposition of a no-fly zone. The Iraqi defence ministry newspaper *Al-Qadisiya* boasted: "The Iraqi people and its armed forces will gouge out the enemy's eyes."

However, Pentagon officials characterised the threat as bluster and predicted there would be no extensive military clashes over the air prohibition in southern Iraq. They doubted whether Baghdad would challenge the ban more than once or twice by flying planes in the air exclusion zone.

Even so, the Bush administration is likely to move more aircraft to the Gulf to support the 78 warplanes based on the aircraft carrier *Independence* and the 80 or so jets that are already stationed in Saudi Arabia. Several air wings in the United States have been alerted to their possible redeployment to the Gulf. The Pentagon declined last night to provide any details.

Meanwhile, the State Department issued a warning over the weekend to Americans not to travel to Jordan and to be cautious about venturing into the Middle East and North Africa generally.

The *Al-Qadisiya* threat to match allied force with Iraqi resistance came after President Saddam Hussein had met his air force and air defence chiefs. Previous Iraqi statements damning the allied no-fly proposal have only talked in vague terms of Baghdad "mobilising" the resources of the Iraqi people.

Saddam continued his diplomatic offensive by sending Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, to Yemen for consultations. Yemen, Jordan and Sudan, who all opposed the Gulf war, have denounced the allied plan. Egypt and Syria have also criticised the proposed no-fly ban, warning the allies that it could result in the disintegration of Iraq.

The Bush administration has denied that the allies are interested in dividing up Iraq, but officials privately acknowledge that there is a risk that protecting the Shias in the south in an effort to weaken Saddam could result in the break-up of the country.

Ride family fears, page 3

Food airlift to Somalis under way

FROM RICHARD WALKER IN WAJIR, KENYA

AMERICAN transport planes shuttled food for starving Somalis into this desert frontier town yesterday, flying 18 missions from Mombasa, Kenya. "The operation is up and running," said Lieutenant Colonel Peter Donnelly, who flew in with the first C-130 transport plane. "We can keep up this schedule in a dawn-to-dusk operation. The aid agencies say they can handle all the food we are able to fly in."

More than a million victims of civil war in Somalia and Ethiopia are massed in refugee camps in northern Kenya. The C-130 and C-141 planes brought in 216 tonnes of basic foods, including lentils and wheat flour. Later this week the US airlift will start direct flights to Somalia.

Operate Ephra, the Wajir police commander, who watched the food unloaded, said: "The people in this area are in bad shape. They do not have enough food for their own families and there is nothing left over for their fellow Somalis who are fleeing Somalia."

Fred Fischer, an official from the United States Agency for International Development, said aid experts estimated that at least a million people in northern Kenya, including hundreds of thousands from Somalia and Ethiopia, needed food. (Reuters)



Gone to flames: fire destroying a home in Auburn, northern California, one of many buildings consumed by a 150-acre blaze that blackened the outskirts of the town. Wildfires raged across the drought-stricken west of America yesterday,

forcing thousands from their homes (AP reports from McArthur, California). In the mountainous Shasta County, northern California, 1,800 firemen fought a 63,000-acre wildfire which destroyed the village of Round Mountain, and used bulldoz-

ers to create firebreaks around it. Investigators were still trying to discover the cause of the fire, which began on Thursday. The authorities lifted an evacuation order in Calaveras County, northern California, where a fire that scorched

18,000 acres was contained. The blaze destroyed 117 buildings, including at least 42 homes. Other fires in the region included a 232,000-acre blaze near Boise, Idaho, and smaller outbreaks in Utah, Oregon and southern California.

Canadian constitution Leaders agree reform package

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

CANADIAN political leaders, after a week of bargaining, have agreed a set of constitutional reforms that could bring a new era of harmony to the divided country.

The reforms, including a radical revision of the parliamentary system, self-government for indigenous people, and recognition of French-speaking Quebec province as a distinct society, were put together late on Saturday. But the architects of the plan, Brian Mulroney, the federal prime minister, the ten provincial premiers, and the leaders of Canada's native and Inuit

communities were careful to point out that the fine print had still to be agreed.

Nevertheless, a feeling of accomplishment was in the air as they gave individual press conferences. Mr Mulroney said: "We now have the tools to secure our future together, our unity and our prosperity."

Robert Bourassa, the premier of separatist-minded Quebec, said the accord showed that Canada could now achieve greater internal peace and stability. He acknowledged that the accord's limited devolution of powers from the federal to the provin-

cial level was less than Quebec had wanted. But the province would still have more power than it had had since Canada was formed in 1867.

He sidestepped the question of whether Quebec would now go ahead with its referendum on sovereignty on October 26. There could be amendments to the statute providing for the referendum, "but we have not reached that point", he said. The future of the reforms is also clouded by the fact that some English-speaking provinces are committed to hold referendums on the issue as well.

Lebanon voting goes ahead despite boycott

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE initial phase of Lebanon's first parliamentary elections in 20 years ended yesterday afternoon without violence, but amid reports of poor administration, falsification and a poor turnout.

The poll went ahead in northern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa valley despite opposition by the Christian community. The Christians had tried to persuade the government to delay the election until Syrian troops leave Beirut and some other areas in September in line with a 1989 peace accord.

Having failed to postpone the election, the Christians

boycotted it instead. In the Christian village of Tanourin in northern Lebanon, only four out of 1,200 eligible voters cast their ballots.

The third day of a strike by Christians in protest at the poll brought east Beirut to a standstill.

Car drivers tied black ribbons to their radio aerials in a sign of mourning for the "slaughtered democracy", the Voice of Free Lebanon radio said. Other drivers stuck pictures of the exiled general, Michel Aoun — the main opponent of the pro-Syrian Lebanese government — on their cars and drove to rallies.

Queen Mary heading for the financial rocks

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Two weeks after the Queen Elizabeth 2 ran aground off Massachusetts, on the other side of America the aging liner Queen Mary may also be heading for the metaphorical rocks, unless a buyer can be found.

Bidding for the Queen Mary, moored for the past 25 years at Long Beach, California, will close today. A variety of groups and individuals, including several Japanese business concerns and a Mississippi gambling tycoon are said to be interested in acquiring the 1,018ft liner. If a suitable buyer is not found,

the ship may be scrapped. The Queen Mary is the property of the city of Long Beach, and until this year was leased to the Walt Disney Co as a floating hotel and part of the Walt Disney Theme Park. In March, Disney cancelled its lease, citing the expense of maintaining it.

At least 60 separate bids have been made to buy or lease the former Cunard White Star liner, and the city fathers of Long Beach will decide today which, if any, are acceptable. The city has said that it may not sell to the highest bidder. The city council

has commissioned a study to explore the options if the Queen Mary goes unsold, which include scrapping or sinking the ship, or turning it into a casino.

Japan seems the most likely destination for the once great vessel. One Japanese consortium wants to tow the ship to Tokyo Bay and turn it into an office block. Another plans to make it into a hotel.

Perhaps the most unlikely project comes from Don Laughlin, a Mississippi gambling magnate, who wants to

move the Queen Mary to Gulfport, Mississippi, for use as a convention centre, museum and gambling parlour. The Queen Mary is too wide to pass through the Panama Canal and would have to be towed around Cape Horn to the Gulf coast at an estimated cost of \$2 million (£1.02 million).

Although thousands of tourists have visited the ship, the Queen Mary has consistently failed to make a profit, and the cost of operating the ship as a tourist attraction is estimated at more than \$1 million a month.



Ocean giant: the Queen Mary in dry dock in 1953

Seoul will sign China deal today

Peking: Lee Sang Ock, South Korea's foreign minister, arrived in Peking yesterday where he will sign a protocol establishing diplomatic relations with China today (Catherine Sampson writes).

North Korea has remained silent on what it is believed to regard as a betrayal by its old ally, Peking. *The Wen Wei Po*, a Peking-run newspaper in Hong Kong, said that China had already "obtained" North Korea's understanding.

Peking has made little more of what, to Asia, is important news. The absence of the song and dance that usually would accompany such a diplomatic success is believed to reflect embarrassment. Until now, Peking has been unwilling to offend its old ally, Pyongyang.

Floods strike

Manila: Nearly half a million people in 40 towns have been affected by floods that have swept through the northern Philippines, relief officials said. Five people were drowned and one man died of electrocution, they added. Wide areas of four provinces north of Manila remain flooded after a week of rains caused rivers to burst their banks, the office of civil defence said. (Reuters)

Officer sacked

Manila: President Ramos of the Philippines has sacked Cesar Nazareno, the chief of police, in the wake of a scandal in which senior officers were unmasked as being behind big robbery and gambling syndicates. Mr Nazareno was implicated by anonymous letters sent to the media, but Mr Ramos said he was removing him for incompetence.

Drought threat

Harare: A million people may have to be moved from Zimbabwe's drought-stricken second city, Bulawayo, which is expected to run out of water next month. The city's industries may have to close if it does not rain. (Reuters)

Two shot dead

Ajaccio: Gunmen killed two men in the Corsican village of Balagne, the latest victims of a wave of crime and gang warfare in which 28 people have died this year in the French island. (Reuters)

Satellite lost

Cape Canaveral: A television satellite valued at more than \$41.5 million was destroyed when its launch rocket, a General Dynamics Atlas 1, tumbled out of control and had to be blown up minutes after its lift-off. (Reuters)

Four beheaded

Islamabad: A Pakistani man, Sher Zaman, beheaded his four children, aged one to six, and stabbed his wife when she tried to intervene after locking up his family in their home. (Reuters)

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Evacuation of envoys stalled by Kabul rebels

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JALALABAD

TWO hundred diplomats trying to get out of Kabul, which has been shelled and rocketed for more than two weeks, are preparing to evacuate by road under a possible one-day ceasefire.

Plans for their evacuation were set back by fierce battles between the dissident Mujahidin of Hezb-i-Islami, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and government troops in Kabul yesterday. Heavy rocket fire damaged embassies and the residence of the Pakistan ambassador in the city, where more than 1,800 people have died in two weeks of fighting. Thousands more have been injured, and over 120,000 residents have fled the capital, according to a senior United Nations official.

More than a dozen Mujahidin groups controlling the eastern city of Jalalabad have sent delegations to Kabul to persuade Mr Hekmatyar to let the envoys go. The Russians, French, Italians and Indians have the largest missions. Britain has no diplomatic presence.

Mr Hekmatyar has issued conditions for a permanent ceasefire, most of which the negotiators have rejected outright. The talks are probably being held south of Kabul, where the Hezb-i-Islami leader has his headquarters.

The immediate objective of his assault on the capital is to drive out the Uzbek militiamen who provide the main military support to the Uzbek and Tajik-dominated Islamic government. Without these forces, the city would fall easily to Mr Hekmatyar.

He claims that the Uzbek leader, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, is taking orders from Babrak Karmal, the former communist president, who is believed to have spent time recently in the Uzbek-controlled northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Mr Hekmatyar says remnants of the former communist regime of Dr Najibullah, ousted as president four months ago, are the real power behind the new Islamic government.

General Dostum, who commands tens of thousands of men, was a key ally of the former communist government until he switched sides early last spring, setting about a chain of events that brought down the Najibullah regime in April.

Kabul airport has been closed for more than a fortnight by Mr Hekmatyar's shelling. Foreign missions would be uneasy about accepting any offer by him to let their diplomats fly out. Kabul government officials have said he cannot be trusted.

The French have decided to keep their envoys in Kabul for only a short time longer before getting them out, ceasefire or not. They would probably travel by road to the north of the city, where they would join the Salang highway heading towards Uzbekistan and the safety of territory controlled by General Dostum.

The only other option is to take the road east to Jalalabad and from there to the Pakistan border post of Torkham at the mouth of the Khyber pass. This is about a ten-hour drive on broken roads controlled by different Mujahidin factions. Mr Hekmatyar's men have checkpoints on Kabul's eastern outskirts, making the route potentially dangerous.

The Red Cross is uncertain about the future of its operations in Kabul unless the attacks stop. Staff asking to leave have been evacuated by road, and those close to the end of their contracts have been told to quit immediately without waiting for a ceasefire.



Match maker the Rev Moon Sun Myung, the Unification Church's founder, examines photographs of some of the 40,000 men and women who will be married at Seoul's Olympic stadium tomorrow. Mr Moon matched the couples from 130 nations

Plutonium ship is barred

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

A JAPANESE ship carrying radioactive plutonium from France will be refused access to Hong Kong waters despite Tokyo's plans to bring future shipments of the nuclear fuel from Britain.

The specially built plutonium carrier *Akatsuki Maru* is designed to make the long voyage to the British colony without calling anywhere in between, but the controversy over the shipments is such that Hong Kong will not allow even an emergency stop.

About a tonne of plutonium — enough to build about 120 nuclear weapons — will be shipped to Japan towards the end of the year. The plutonium will be the first of a series of consignments from France and Britain where spent fuel from Japan's conventional uranium-fuelled nuclear power stations is being reprocessed into plutonium for its experimental fast-breeder reactor programme.

The British and French governments are closely involved in planning the shipments, although the exact dates are secret.

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Clear my name, Allen demands

Woody Allen met police and welfare officials at the weekend to discuss allegations made by lawyers for his former lover, Mia Farrow, that he abused his seven-year-old adopted daughter.

He has denied the charges, which emerged after he sued for custody of the three children he shares with Mia Farrow, but the actor-director has acknowledged he is having an affair with another of Farrow's adopted children, Soon-Yi Previn, believed to be aged between 19 and 21.

In an interview with *Time* magazine, the first he has given since the custody battle erupted, Allen discussed a set of nude photographs of Soon-

Yi Previn, believed to be aged between 19 and 21.

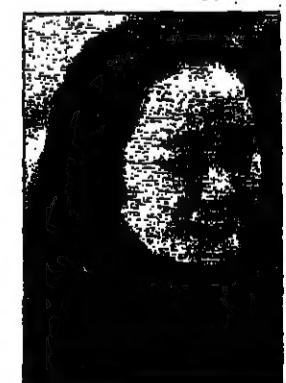
He said that he had taken the photographs because "Soon-Yi had talked about being a model and said to me would I take some pictures of her without her clothes on... we had an intimate relationship, so I said sure, and I did. It was just a lark of a moment."

Allen denied that there were incestuous overtones to his relationship with Soon-Yi, a Korean orphan adopted by Farrow with her former husband André Previn. "I am not Soon-Yi's father or stepfather," he said. "I have never in my life slept in Mia's apartment. I was not any type of father to her adopted kids in any sense of the word."

He said that Farrow had called him five times on Friday, asking "to stop this grotesque publicity circus". He said he told his former lover that she must "clear my name unequivocally before we can talk, and see if there's a way of turning things down."

The former Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, arrived on holiday at Palma de Mallorca with his wife Raisa. They lunched with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

The Russian pianist, Yekaterina Nebolsin, 17, has won the £10,000 first prize in the 11th Santander international piano competition in northern Spain. Nebolsin secured 11 of the 12 jury votes.



Soon-Yi Previn: talked about being a model

Yi that allegedly were discovered by Farrow at his flat last January and that alerted her to the relationship between her lover of the past 12 years and her daughter. Allen said he had taken the photographs because "Soon-Yi had talked about being a model and said to me would I take some pictures of her without her clothes on... we had an intimate relationship, so I said sure, and I did. It was just a lark of a moment."

Beyond a shadow

Peter Riddell on the uses of Opposition

On the day that the results of the shadow cabinet elections were announced, I was talking to a member of the cabinet in the Whitehall office. Who, he wondered, would be his shadow? He hoped it would be somebody good. That would show that the Opposition was taking his area seriously and might help to raise the profile of his department. In the event, the shadow turned out to be one of Labour's better debaters.

I raised a similar question a few days later with one of the minister's cabinet colleagues. He had never thought that having a good shadow might be useful to him, but he saw the point. Having held several posts over the past few years, he had always got on reasonably well with his shadows, especially those who had been sharp and tough in debate. The only Labour spokesman he disliked was a not very effective one, whom he thought seized on any issue which might make a headline.

It seems that the old adage about every government needing a strong Opposition is right — up to a point. A poor minister can suffer if he is overshadowed by a powerful shadow. John Smith made his name as a debater and a national political figure in the 1985-87 period when harrying both Leon Brittan, while he was at his most vulnerable during the Westland affair, and then Paul Channon.

Similarly, Robin Cook has been able to put ministers on the defensive, though, unlike Mr Smith, he has been disliked by Tory MPs for what they see as his negative approach. In an earlier generation, Oliver Stanley, Harold Wilson and Iain Macleod were all regarded as powerful opponents.

But a competent, or strong, minister can benefit from an active shadow. Not only will their debates attract attention as they spark off each other but they can enhance each other's standing. The pre-election battles between Michael Howard and Tony Blair — both clever barristers — over unemployment, training and the minimum wage helped their reputations as the coming men in their parties.

A high-profile shadow can also influence the direction of policy. The attacks on the government's health record by Mr Cook and Harriet Harman in the two years before the election begged several questions about Labour's own approach, especially to changes in the NHS structure, but they forced ministers to counter-attack. That involved not just propaganda but also extra money.

By contrast, the lack of attention to housing over the past few years has in part reflected the weakness of Labour's housing spokesmen. They have failed to make much political impact. That, in turn, has meant that the housing minister, even one so committed to the subject as Sir George Young now, has found it difficult to raise the profile of housing policy at Westminster.

The importance of the quality of a shadow should not be exaggerated. The activities of outside pressure groups and the publicity given to an issue by television and newspapers also matter. Some topics are out of fashion, some in fashion. But the Opposition can affect the attention given to an issue. This does not just mean a spokesman's ability to criticise in the Commons or in the media. It also involves their ability to think ahead and produce new policies.

Judged by these standards, the new shadow team is a mixed bag. Labour's best debaters, Gordon Brown, Mr Cook and Mr Blair, all face cabinet heavyweights. The available talent is spread more thinly elsewhere. Jack Straw and Chris Smith should give Mr Howard a good run, and I doubt if Peter Lilley will enjoy his exchanges with Donald Dewar. But in other areas, new spokesmen will have to perform much better than they have done so far if they are to worry ministers. Ian Lang will be relieved that Mr Dewar has been replaced by Tom Clarke, who, for all his dogged worthiness, has never sparkled.

Moreover, in the areas where Labour needs new thinking, such as health and education, its shadows, David Blunkett and Ann Taylor, are not known for their fresh ideas. That, paradoxically, may be a danger for the government, since if ministers are not marked by strong shadows they can become over-confident and make mistakes. A minister's best protection may be a good shadow.

The row at St Paul's school shows market forces diminishing education, argues Mary Warnock

Trampling on teachers

The resignation of Helen Williams from St Paul's Girls School is a severe blow to those interested in persuading intelligent, imaginative and reasonably ambitious women to join the teaching profession. To be high mistress of St Paul's is to have reached the top. Yet there can be few professionals whose position is so much subject to the whims of those who appointed her, and of the parents who are their ever more demanding clients. Governors have the interests of the school at heart, no doubt. But this tends to lead them to be conservative, for fear of complaints from influential parents, whose views on education tend to be derived from two sources: their own school days, and the mythology that surrounds university entrance.

The Mercers' Company, whose members form the majority of the board governing both the boys and the girls at St Paul's, cannot be expected to be especially knowledgeable about education. Neither are they renowned for sympathy with professional women, especially those with

views of their own. They have obviously lost faith in the judgment they made, less than three years ago, when they appointed Mrs Williams, and they have listened to some parents whose knowledge of education is no better than their own.

More disastrously they have listened to the voice of the press. St Paul's is newsworthy, and many parents of Paulinas are well known and wealthy. So there has appeared at least one article which not only contained a good deal of fanciful material, but was based on purely personal comparisons between Mrs Williams and her smart but not much-laid-back predecessor. Such stuff ought to have done nothing but determine the governors to support the high mistress through thick and thin, and to stand up for their own decision in appointing her. But that is no longer how governors react. Their disagreement with the

head existed, and its subject was of great importance. Helen Williams held that the middle years at St Paul's were rigid and over-dominated by exams. Girls came in at 11 full of intellectual curiosity and imagination. The sixth form also was stimulating, and the teaching superb. Between the two, a desert, which, coinciding with adolescence, led to boredom and cynicism.

Her plan was to widen and adapt the curriculum by cutting out all but the minimum GCSEs, and allowing for much more varied teaching with no examination in view. Some influential parents were against this. They thought (wrongly) that universities would sniff at girls who, though they might have excellent A levels, would have fewer than what has become the normal nine or ten GCSEs. In fact the universities are accustomed to seeing lists of GCSEs at grade A and pay

virtually no attention to them. But it is difficult for parents to believe this. And equally it is difficult for some teachers, who have become used to aiming for exceptional examination results as proof of their own success, to think more imaginatively, and in more genuinely educational terms. Yet the problem is familiar to every school. St Paul's, with its outstanding academic and artistic standards, could afford to tackle it. Nobody could possibly suppose that these standards would be in jeopardy.

Twenty years ago, not only at St Paul's but other high-flying schools such as the North London Collegiate, a similar plan was followed. Girls took fewer O levels than their contemporaries at grammar school, and thus, relatively free from the examination grind between the ages of 14 and 16, they had an unusually broad and diverse education. Now that the whole question of

school curriculum is up for discussion and the education of very able children is back on the agenda, indeed at the centre of John Patten's white paper, it seems appropriate to look at the dismal middle years of school, even if only for the exceptionally bright girls of St Paul's.

Only a head with imagination, and a vision of how she would like things to be, could undertake such reform. She would need, as well, a genuine grasp of academic standards and the intellectual discipline required if any subject, examined or not, is to be made exciting and demanding. Only a head with a staff whom she knew to be excellent teachers could contemplate the change. All this Helen Williams had. Why then could she not go ahead? Why will other imaginative heads now be looking anxiously over their shoulders?

The answer is that the forces of the market have defeated Mrs

Williams and will defeat others. The market is essentially conservative. Parents want what they have always had, not something new. Schools must compete with one another not for excellence, certainly not for educational imagination, but simply for examination success. Parent power and the powers of governors (including the power to remove a head who does not seem to provide what parents want to buy) will never lead to educational innovation.

We are told that market forces will cause bad schools to wither away. The risk is that what is left will be uniformly "safe", neither bad nor good. Education is not a suitable commodity to be provided according to the dictates of the market. It will never be a commodity worth having at all if it is not provided by teachers who are independent, professional and ambitious for their schools. What has happened at St Paul's may be seen as one more nail in the coffin of the teaching profession.

Lady Warnock was mistress of Girtton College, Cambridge.

The political circus leaves town

Bush's campaign will play second fiddle to an electoral fight at local level, writes Anthony Howard

There are still, dauntingly, more than ten weeks to go before the American people go to the polls on November 3. If a presidential election has become an assault course for candidates, it also threatens to develop into something of an endurance test for the electorate.

The volatility of opinion polls — thanks to the bounce produced by the Houston convention, President Bush has for the moment all but caught up with his challenger, Governor Clinton of Arkansas — suggests that it will be some time yet before the American voter finally makes up his mind. Nor should that be an occasion for surprise. In effect, the election is about to enter a new phase. As the 2,210 delegates made their way home from Houston last week, the chorus of partisans and activists who have so far shaped the drama were, in effect, tipping off the stage.

The relationship between party and the electoral process in the United States is never easy for the outsider to grasp. In fact national parties exist as an instrument for a single purpose, which is to come together once every four years and select (or, as is increasingly the case, raffily) the choice of a presidential candidate. Once that job is done, the power-brokers and potentates from the states return to their own duchies and fiefdoms, where their primary interest probably lay all along.

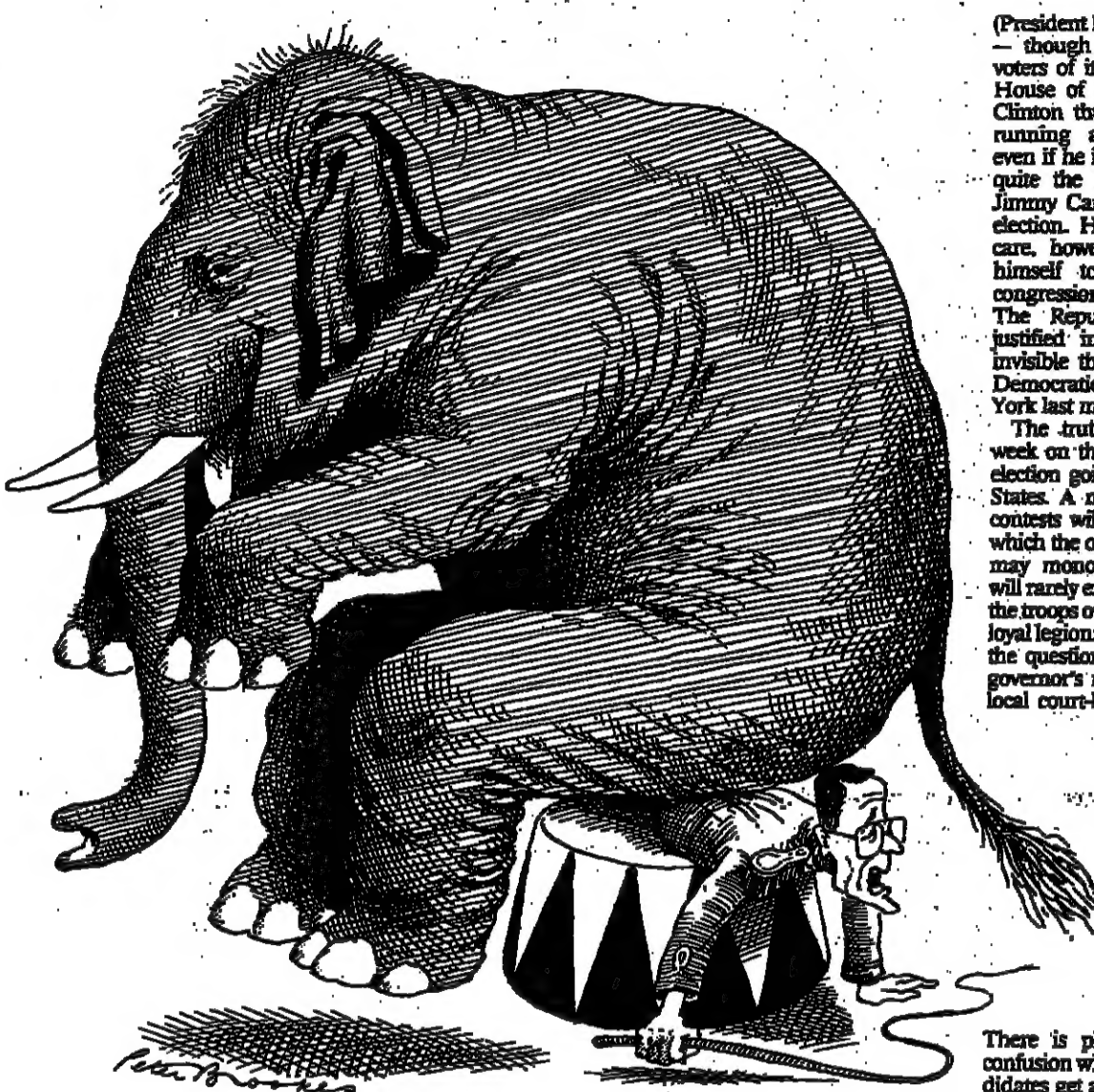
Throughout America candidates and their managers will soon be deciding just how far they wish to identify their own campaigns with the contest for the presidency. If there is no promise of a "coat-tail" effect — which arises only when a highly popular figure such as Dwight Eisenhower or even initially

Ronald Reagan drags a host of candidates behind him into local and national office — the majority of Republicans will probably decide to go it alone. There has, after all, traditionally been the minority party. And anyway many of them now fear that, as a result of the convention, they have been loaded with ideological baggage that may turn off voters in their own districts.

In New York, for example, Senator Alfonse D'Amato, scarcely to be considered a liberal Republican, has already distanced himself from the sort of appeal the national ticket will presumably be making. "I don't think any party has a corner on family values," he pointedly remarked, "and I don't think any party should claim that it has one." Cyries have not been slow to point out that the senator himself is up for re-election this November and that New York has never been considered part of the Bible Belt.

George Bush has made matters awkward for Republicans in one other respect. If he continues to inveigh against the corruption and incompetence of Congress, some of the fallout is bound to descend on the heads of his own party's candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives. The president will, no doubt, do his best to put a cordon sanitaire around Republican incumbents: but those involved in tight battles may well feel that they are better off dissociating themselves from his clarion call for a clean-up on Capitol Hill.

There is anyway something essentially bogus about the president's onslaught on Congress. Nobody seriously believes that he stands the slightest chance of overturning the Democratic majorities in both the House and the Senate: so in blaming the



country's woes on the failure of Congress to co-operate with him, Mr Bush is really only inviting the country to vote for more of the same.

That was not a trap that the president's new hero, Harry Truman, fell into 44 years ago, if only because the control of both Houses that the Republicans had just won was seen at the time as a constitutional aberration (so much so, indeed, that when it happened in the mid-term elec-

tions of 1946, Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas actually called on Truman to resign and hand over the presidency to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. His reward was to be derisively dismissed as "Senator Halfbright" by the inimitable Truman).

Nevertheless, as he embarks on his head-buttling contest with his Democratic challenger, it is plain to see Mr Bush to summon up a hollow vision of "a

rubber-cheque Congress and a rubber-stamp president". The object of the strategy is plainly to get Governor Clinton to defend the record of the 102nd Congress, in which case he can be tarred with the same brush already successfully used by the Republicans on the free-loaders of Capitol Hill.

In this respect, at least, Mr Clinton can probably count himself lucky that he has no legislative background of his own.

(President Bush, by contrast, had — though he seldom reminds voters of it — two terms in the House of Representatives. Mr Clinton thus has the option of running against Washington, even if he is unlikely to do so in quite the blatant fashion that Jimmy Carter did in the 1976 election. He has already taken care, however, not to identify himself too closely with the congressional wing of his party. The Republicans were quite justified in pointing out how invisible that group was at the Democratic convention in New York last month.)

The truth is that from this week on there is no longer one election going on in the United States. A multitude of separate contests will be taking place, of which the one for the presidency may monopolise attention but will rarely exhaust the energies of the troops on the ground. For the loyal legionnaires of both parties, the question of who gets to the governor's mansion or even the local court-house is every bit as important as who makes it to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The trouble, however, is that for such a system to work there has to be a choice, and not, as Barry Goldwater said three decades ago, merely an echo.

There is plainly a danger of confusion when presidential candidates get as detached from the normal party battles as Mr Bush and Mr Clinton look likely to be by November 3. Neither has any fixed ideological abode and each looks ready to climb into any suit of clothes that will prove attractive to the electorate.

Maybe that is simply a reflection of the doctrine of the separation of powers, but it can hardly be what the founding fathers had in mind when they decreed that all executive power should be vested in the president of the United States.



...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

In architecture "deconstruction" is all the rage. Almost every pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville is deconstructionist. This outrageous style turns convention inside out by flaunting rather than covering a building's guts. Traditional structures hide girders, lifts and ventilation ducts but deconstructionists display them on the outside, or reveal them under glass. Except that gravity forbids it, the sewage pipes would be on the roof.

I suppose the shocking new Lloyd's building in the City is Britain's most famous example of the genre. I confess I like it, in an "ooh you are awful" sort of way. But why only the Lloyd's building? A rearrangement, on deconstructionist lines, of the business itself would have been an amusing option. Instead of the Names being the visible part, the management techniques and working practices of the organisation could have been displayed on the outside. Many tears might have been saved.

You sometimes see deconstructionist wristwatches, with all their wheels and balances revealed under glass; and the style emerges from time to time in dress, where stitching, braces or corsetry become a feature, rather than a shameful secret. Wilfred Thesiger recounts how the chief of one tribe in northern Sudan, presented for the first time to the British governor and in the habit of going naked, was offered shorts to wear. He was unfamiliar with shorts. Buttoning the top fly button but leaving the genitals undone, he arranged his genitals

to hang outside, surprising the governor. This, perhaps, represents the ultimate in deconstructionist dress.

Even politicians can show a cheeky penchant for deconstruction. Alan Clark was a minister liable to such moods. If a speech and the argument it contained were not his own but given him by civil servants to deliver, he would advertise rather than conceal its origin by reading it out at the dispatch box very slowly, in a schoolboy monotone. Chris Patten's deconstruction was more subtle, consisting of real or verbal winks — as if to say, "You and I know why I have to say this. She's pulling the strings as usual". A deconstructionist approach by television crews to a party conference would film the platform from the back, with all the scaffolding, trailing wires and wooden frames propping canvas flaps revealed. Someone should try it.

But we journalists, who love to show off our knowledge by writing in an airy familiar way about deconstruction in the arts, almost never apply the technique to our own work. I wonder why? Don't you often ask yourself when reading (for instance) a rave review of a country-house hotel, whether the newspaperman was offered the weekend there free? When a pop idol's ex-lover spills the beans in an "exclusive" in the *Sunday Shock*, wouldn't it be interesting — and germane — to know whether the newspaper has offered her money for this story, and how much: whether these are her own

words or ghost-written; and how the journalists sniff out the story in the first place?

When a political columnist describes a cabinet minister in slavishly adoring terms, shouldn't we be told whether the two are pals? And when a shock story from an investigative journalist threatens to bring down a politician's career a notch or two, might it not be useful to be reminded how many notches upwards the shock promises to nudge the hack's own career?

In the spirit of the era, therefore, I offer you a trail-blazing example of deconstructionist journalism. This is *The Times's* first column which wears its nuts and bolts on the outside...

This column was written for money. It was composed in Seville, Manchester and en route (BR) between London and Derby. It reaches you via News International copywriters, to whom it was dictated, freephone. Any spelling mistakes may be theirs or the sub-editor's, but a much greater number of the author's own howlers will have been corrected by them. The author is subject to editorial censorship but has never been censored. He's barely acquainted with the proprietor and conscious of no pressure from this source. He is not employed by any newspaper but by a company, Camfel Limited, of which he is chairman and sole director, and which paid for his trip to Expo. The article has been sold by Camfel to *The Times* for £325 plus VAT. No expenses are payable. He will not entertain other offers.

Blow Bognor

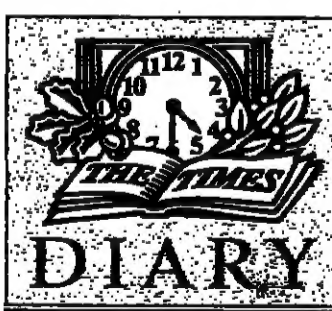
AS John Major returned from his Spanish holiday yesterday, his elder brother Terry revealed that even the prime minister's family is not immune from the recession.

Terry, a regular visitor to Chequers, is missing his annual trip to his beloved Bognor Regis for the second year running. Like thousands of others, the prime minister's closest family is feeling the pinch. "To be truthful we cannot afford it this year," says Terry, who retired from work early because of back pain. "But we are having the occasional day out. My wife Shirley went to Brighton with our son at the end of last week."

Terry and Shirley were not invited to Spain with John and Norma to stay in the luxury villa of the Foreign Office minister Tristan Garel-Jones. But, says Terry, they had not expected an invitation. "We like different sorts of holidays. Shirley and I love Butlin's. We used to go every year without fail and stay in self-catering apartments. "I know more about Butlin's than most of the staff," adds Terry, who is researching a book on his parents' theatrical career. "Not that I am what you would describe as a holiday-camp sort of person. I don't go in for knobby-knees contests and silly games. But Butlin's is one of the last places you can still find decent family entertainment."

Yet Bognor, Terry says, is not all it used to be. There is even a proposal by the local authority to shut the Regis Centre, which houses his favourite theatre. "I saw my hero there, Tommy Trinder. What a professional. It would be a tragedy if it went."

When they were children the Major family never went away on holidays, says Terry, because there



was not enough money. "Before John was born we used to get to Littlehampton just down the road from Bognor. I prefer Bognor, though. Perhaps we will be able to go next year."

British Rail is nothing if not honest about the attributes needed by its hard-pressed staff. Advertising for a press officer to be based at Euston, BR demands the successful applicant has "a good sense of humour" — presumably to deal with all the jokes about the wrong kind of snow, leaves on the tracks and whatever this winter's excuse happens to be. The wrong kind of passengers, perhaps?

Sitting room only

ONE of the more bizarre events of the Edinburgh festival took place yesterday at St Giles Cathedral, where after the morning service a statue of a three-legged stool was unveiled. The stool commemorates the occasion in 1637 when the Protestant radical, Jenny Geddes hurled a stool at James Hannay, dean of St Giles, in protest at the imposition of the Anglican prayer book. A riot ensued, although all was calm yesterday at the unveiling of the bronze replica by the Scottish artist Marilyn Smith.

"This was the first avant-garde act of the Reformation. For Jenny Geddes to do it required consider-

able courage, as it was horrifically dangerous to cross swords with Rome," said Ricky Demarco, who runs an Edinburgh art gallery and who has been at the heart of the festival for more than a quarter of a century. "Her bold action was all the more impressive when you consider that young reactionaries in those days had no Arts Council grants to keep them going."

Walking wounded

NOT since the days of the Kinder Scout mass trespass have rambles felt so militant. Walkers are incensed by suggestions that the Lakeland guidebooks of the late Al-



fred Wainwright be revised, after complaints from farmers and landowners that his routes involve trespassing on private land.

Michael Joseph, Wainwright's publisher, which has just produced his last book, *Wainwright in the Valleys of Lakeland*, admits it is considering revising some walks in the light of the complaints. "We're collecting all the information and we will make a decision about what to do over the next month," says a spokeswoman for the firm. Ramblers counter that Wain-

wright's 50 hand-drawn guide books are the walker's bible. Changing the ingredients in an Elizabeth David recipe book, Eric Robson, who presented a BBC series about Wainwright and his walks, considers the mere thought of changing the books sacrilegious. "This groundswell of opinion that Wainwright is the man who despoiled the Lake District has grown up only since he died," he says. "It's nonsense. There are thousands of guides to the Lake District as well as maps. Wainwright's are more philosophical strolls. He was always opposed to any revision. He would rather have withdrawn the books from sale than allow the publisher to change his routes."

Who'll be mother?

WHILE Woody Allen and Mia Farrow prepare to go to court tomorrow in their custody fight, American showbiz circles are awash with rumours that Macaulay Culkin, star of *Home Alone* and the richest child actor in Hollywood, could soon be at the centre of another high-profile custody battle. Culkin, who is 12 this month, is co-managed by his father, Kit, and his mother, Pat. According to *Variety*, the American trade magazine, the relationship is experiencing strain, not about who should stay home, but about who should take the reins on business decisions.

As their talented son is earning an estimated \$5 million for the sequel to *Home Alone*, the concern is understandable. Culkin's advisers, however, have clearly learnt something from the very public negotiations between Woody Allen and his former partner. A spokesman for Sam Cohn, the child actor's press agent, says: "He does not talk to the press on such matters." Sound advice, indeed.

Up 11.61.50



CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

There is no "sterling crisis". There is no conceivable justification for raising British interest rates. Monetary conditions do not require it — if anything they point to a cut. The pound is not weak. It closed at a new high against the dollar and the yen every day last week, including Friday. The problem, if there is one, is not British, it is German. Only because of a rampant rise in the mark against all other currencies, buoyed by speculative investment, are people now talking gloomily of a rise in British interest rates.

This is just what critics of joining the exchange-rate mechanism always feared: the government would be forced to move interest rates in one direction when all the domestic economic indicators were pointing the other way. Such are the perils of tying one currency to a basket of others. The absurdity of the present circumstances is that only one currency — the mark — is dragging the whole basket, containing all the other currencies, behind it.

German interest rates are high for a reason that has nothing to do with the economic circumstances of the other members of the ERM. Germany, through unification, has suffered an economic dislocation the like of which has not been seen for decades. The side-effects have inevitably been inflationary. Unwilling to countenance higher prices, the Bundesbank has pushed interest rates up and up, putting intolerable pressure on other currencies in the system.

Had Germany asked to withdraw from the system until its economy had settled down again, it would have been understandable. As it is, the other 11 currencies have had to suffer all the bangs and jolts of the reunification of two German economies with not a shock absorber in sight.

This, therefore, is no old-fashioned sterling slide. The pound is now at its highest point for 11 years against the dollar and its highest for three years against the yen. The idea that Britain has been addicted to devaluation throughout the past decade or so is simply

false. The pound today is 26 per cent higher against the dollar than it was 16 years ago. It has also appreciated against the French franc, the lira and practically every other European currency apart from the mark in the 13 years since the creation of the ERM.

The Bundesbank's policies are now pushing even the German economy into recession. For Britain and other European countries to respond to the excessive strength of the mark by raising their interest rates would indeed be the "economics of the madhouse", as the Institute of Directors said at the weekend. It would be even more absurd to expect America to raise its rates to "defend" the dollar, even outside an election campaign. America's priority is rightly to stimulate its economy and it should go on cutting interest rates for as long as necessary.

What then is the right response to the past week's events? The best hope would be for a cut in German interest rates. Unfortunately, the Bundesbank shows no sign of being willing to indulge in such good-neighbourly behaviour. The alternative is for other countries to defend their own national interests as best they can through selling marks.

The intervention so far has not helped, partly because it has been too small but also because at times it has been undermined by the Bundesbank. If Germany is to remain recalcitrant, the intervention will have to be on a far larger scale. If many countries at once, including Japan, were to flood the markets with marks, in co-ordinated sales many times greater than anything seen so far, the impact could be electrifying, not only on the markets but also on the German authorities.

British ministers need not behave, as so often in the past, as if they are impotent in the face of international financial events. They must not allow their economy to be bulldozed into yet deeper recession. Between now and the French referendum next month, British interest rates should stay where they are. Every tool ministers possess must be deployed to prevent them rising.

PULPIT POLITICS

President Bush enters the last lap of the US presidential marathon in better shape than most commentators would have forecast a month ago. His party convention, held at Houston last week, may not have been an edifying occasion; but, to judge by the polls, it appears to have been effective. Much of its impact was due to Mr Bush himself. In his acceptance speech, he yanked his party back from the wilder shores of religious enthusiasm and restored it to the secular mainstream of American politics.

That was just as well. There were moments at Houston when the Republicans looked more like a movement devoted to moral revival than a party intent on winning an election. The censorious position the party's platform took on many social issues — most notably abortion, which the party proposes to make illegal in any circumstances — will almost certainly cost it votes in November.

Already, the president is badly trailing Bill Clinton among women voters. Given the tone of anti-feminism that pervaded the convention, that is hardly surprising. If he is to survive in November, one of the first things Mr Bush needs to do is to lay to rest the impression that his party has it in for working women.

Other items in the party's social agenda will need to be modified as well. The Republicans fell into the trap last week of defining themselves as a restrictionist, exclusionist party. Homosexuals and lesbians were given the sharp edge of many speakers' tongues and there were some none-too-carefully coded messages about blacks too. It required Jack Kemp, Mr Bush's housing secretary, to try to mend fences by reminding the delegates that they all belonged to the party of Abraham Lincoln.

The way the Republican party contrived down the years to throw away its hold on the black vote remains one of the cautionary tales of American politics. The Democrats,

after all, stood for the losing side in the civil war and did not acquire a majority in the black urban ghettos until 1936. Here it was Roosevelt who changed the contours of American politics, by widening the bounds of the tent under which potential Democratic voters could shelter.

To be fair, both Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan between them did the same for the Republican party in more recent times. George Bush's nightmare must, however, be the Barry Goldwater precedent of 1964. The lesson is that the Republican party can never hope to succeed if, in the pursuit of doctrinal goals, it allows itself to be portrayed as a bit quirky, if not downright doty.

It was not George Bush's fault this year that 40 per cent of his platform committee turned out to belong to the religious right. Precinct elections, dominated by the Protestant churches out in the Midwest and the Bible Belt, had seen to that. But the president was perhaps remiss in not recognising quickly enough the negative message that was getting across to the big cities and even to the more sophisticated country clubs.

For a time last week the Republicans, like the Democrats of 1896, appeared quite content to "stand at Armageddon and battle for the Lord". But William Jennings Bryan, the greatest orator of American politics, lost that election and, indeed, the two subsequent ones that he later fought. Whatever other hopes of salvation it may hold out, the Bible Belt has never offered much chance of deliverance to a political party.

Mr Bush made a promising start at seeking to widen his party's appeal and grapple with the real election issues on the final day of his party's convention. He may, though, still need to do more if he is to destroy the impression that the GOP, which has occupied the White House for the past 12 years, has been hijacked by a group of zealots and bigots.

HOT AIR WAVES

Nowhere is the innate conservatism of the British middle classes more apparent than in their possessive attitude to radio, their radio as they see it. *Feedback*, the Radio 4 programme that airs listeners' complaints, attests to that. One slight shift in programme schedules, one slang word used by an announcer, and a stack of irate missives lands on the *Feedback* desk. Now Radio 3 is their target and the crescendo of complaints is nearing its climax.

Last week, Gerald Kaufman wrote in *The Times* that the station was "plunging down-market" and would "degenerate into junk radio". He was planning instead to listen to old tapes of Radio 3 concerts in his car, he said. To read him one might expect to hear Mantovani or *The Nutcracker Suite* on the purists' channel. Instead Radio 3 broadcast last night a premiere of Robert Simpson's Eleventh Symphony, followed by *Back in Perspective*, *Bartok and the Violin*, and a Prom performance of Berlioz's *Childhood of Christ*.

The truth is that Radio 3 has changed barely at all. What most annoys the old listeners is a new programme each weekday between 7am and 9am called, admittedly somewhat tritely, *In Tune*. Instead of the old *Morning Concert* (which lives on at the weekend), this plays shorter pieces interspersed with a little talk: news summaries, travel news and so on. For those to whom the human voice is anathema, in the morning, this may be intolerable. Like Mr Kaufman, they will doubtless resort to the cassette, their musical entertainment unworried by news of roadworks on the M3. But a whole new audience could now be attracted to the station, having started listening to it on their

way to work. *In Tune* should become a port of entry to the mainland of Radio 3.

Every BBC radio station, every television channel has to adapt to survive. The BBC's charter comes up for renewal in 1996 and already the corporation is conducting its own scrutiny of where the licence fee is spent. Radio 3 is particularly vulnerable because it helps to support four orchestras and broadcasts much live work. It is expensive to run, using up 22 per cent of the radio budget, while attracting only 5 per cent of the national audience. Because the absolute figures are small, Nicholas Kenyon, the new controller, need not attract huge numbers of new listeners to boost that percentage figure quite respectably. By doing so he will be in a better position to argue for the future of the network.

What is important is that, in so doing, Mr Kenyon does not dilute the artistic standards for which Radio 3 is justly famed. The arrival next month of Classic FM, Britain's first national commercial radio station, must not be used as an excuse for the whole of Radio 3 to move down-market. The BBC should not be thinking in terms of "competing" with Classic FM.

If anything, the arrival of the commercial station means that there is less reason to accuse Radio 3 of elitism. People who want to listen to nothing but good tunes will have their appetite catered for commercially. Public-service Radio 3 must continue to do what it does best: to cover the whole of the classical repertoire, melodic and cacophonous, ancient and avant garde, with a sprinkling of highbrow talk thrown in. A little traffic news in the morning poses no threat to that.

Redefined boundaries as the key to peace in Balkans

From Mr Peter B. Walsh

Sir, As someone who has known the former Yugoslavia well for over 20 years, may I endorse many of the views expressed by Dr Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, in his letter of August 19.

Except in the case of Slovenia, entirely arbitrary administrative boundaries have become recognised as boundaries for sovereign states, regardless of the views of large parts of the population trapped within them. The Serbs in Croatia did not like this for good reason, given the attitude to them of the first elected Croatian government.

They did not like it in Bosnia when suddenly, by dint of an election within these arbitrary boundaries, they became separated from their brethren elsewhere and, in all probability, politically powerless. So they rebelled. So the other minorities with other ambitions joined in battle. So the inevitable atrocities of civil war commenced.

Intelligent Western policy in recent years would have been to encourage a sensible break-up along natural borders wherever possible. But there was no western policy. All there has been is frustrated impetuosity (the recognition of Croatia), spineless illogicality (the non-recognition of Macedonia) and powerless co-existence (the condemnation, however justified, of Serbia). The result is war and the greatest damage to everyone, not least to Serbia whose economy is in tatters.

The only sensible policy always lay in the redefinition of national boundaries, including those of Serbia, the protection of minorities who cannot be catered for by being given their own state (and this includes the many people who, until recently, have seen themselves only as Yugoslavs) and ensuring that thereafter

no newly sovereign state has the power to run amok among its neighbours or oppress those within its power.

This is what Western governments should now concentrate on, not on trying to support the unsupportable.

Yours faithfully,
P. B. WALSH,
28 Shawfield Street, SW3,
August 20.

From Dr John Yarnold

Sir, The government is right to press for more humanitarian aid to a million refugees in Bosnia threatened with death from a brutal military occupation, starvation, disease and sub-zero temperatures in the winter months ahead. It is also right that UN food convoys negotiate rather than fight their way to besieged populations for as long as this policy works.

But humanitarian action alone will not save the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its 5,500,000 population from the territorial ambitions of a Greater Serbia. It is pointless for the British government to insist on respect for recognised national boundaries unless it has the political will to enforce them.

Are the boundaries of Bosnia still worth bothering about? If the London peace conference next week says they are, economic blockade will not be enough to bring the Serbian war machine to a halt and politicians to serious negotiation. The most effective strategy is the provision of weapons to strengthen the multi-ethnic defenders of Sarajevo and Gorazde, so that territorial gains by Serbia are better resisted.

This has to be done without undermining the UN humanitarian mission in the region. Traditionally, governments do this covertly, accord-

ing to the brutal logic of war. It is a tough decision to take, but the alternative is equally cynical: leaving two million Muslim citizens to their fate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN YARNOLD,
Citizens' Appeal for Bosnia,
PO Box 904,
London SW18 2XB,
August 20.

From Lord Hylton and Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, Mossley Hill (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Can Bosnia-Herzegovina be reconstituted as an independent multi-ethnic state within its recognised boundaries? Or, after so much killing and violence, will it have to be partitioned along tribal lines? Dependable guarantees are necessary to protect the interests of the majorities of Kosovo and Macedonia, and of the minorities both there and in Vojvodina.

Up to now aggression has prospered, and illusions may still be hanging in the air of a Greater Serbia, recreating its 14th-century empire. The Western powers have a duty to dispel such illusions, making it plain that Serbia-Montenegro will lose not only trade and aid, but also its air force, navy and armaments industry, unless it starts to comply with recognised standards of national and international behaviour.

Air power could achieve this, without involving additional land forces. The time has come to move from crisis management to conflict resolution. To avoid raising hopes that cannot be fulfilled, the London conference should be postponed.

Yours faithfully,
HYLTON,
DAVID ALTON,
Palace of Westminster,
August 23.

Need for warning of civil disasters

From Sir Clive Rose

Sir, A decision is to be made later this year by the Home Secretary on the replacement of the existing wartime siren system. Its equipment is coming to the end of its life expectancy and will not function much longer; it is not generally used for emergencies in peacetime, but it still has a role in providing flood warnings in certain parts of the country.

A limited number of hazardous sites in Britain have already installed sirens, but there is no standardisation of either the warning sound or actions to be taken. There are also no provisions for warning of incidents arising from the transportation of hazardous material to these sites.

The estimated cost of replacing the existing warning system is £30 million; at 55p per person this would appear to be good value for money. Whilst the current international situation may cast doubt as to the need for such expenditure solely for use in time of war, there remains a peacetime need to warn the public of dangers from flooding or the release of hazardous chemicals or radioactive materials.

A national system for alerting the public in the event of a civil emergency is long overdue. These systems exist in several of our neighbouring countries in the European Community, and Holland, Denmark and Germany have recently invested heavily in new warning and public information systems.

These requirements have been under consideration within the Home Office for several years, at the instigation of the professional emergency community. The Home Secretary should now give further consideration to the actions taken by his European counterparts, and to making this necessary investment for the protection of the British public.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ROSE
(Chairman, Civil Protection Co-ordination Group),
Chimney House,
Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk.

Court anomalies

From Mr P. G. Wardle

Sir, Last Monday a £250 fine with £1,450 costs was imposed by Haywards Heath magistrates' court on Mr Chris Eubank for driving without due care and attention, which had resulted in the death of a workman (report, August 18).

Twelve months ago, in the same court, I was prosecuted for the unauthorised cutting of my garden hedge, the subject of a tree preservation order, and fined £740, with costs of some £800.

It is small wonder that an increasing number of people observe the criminal system, as it affects the ordinary person, with despair and question the competence and impartiality of local magistrates.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. WARDLE,
26 Bridgersmill,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

'I am not there ...'

From Mr Johnny Cohen

Sir, Your report (August 4) of the funeral of Rachel Nickell, the young mother murdered on Wimbledon Common, quoted from the poem read at the service by her father and stated that it was written by a British soldier who died in Northern Ireland in 1969.

In the introduction to *Innocent Voices in My Ear* (Macdonald, 1983) by Doris Stokes, the medium, the following lines appear:

Do not stand at my grave and weep ...
I am not there ... do not sleep ...
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow,
I am the gentle rains that fall,
I am the fields of ripening grain,
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the graceful rush,
Of beautiful birds in circling flight,
I am the starshine of the night,
I am in the flowers that bloom,
I am in a quiet room,
I am in the birds that sing,
I am in each lovely thing,
Do not stand at my grave and cry —
I did not die ...

The lines are attributed to Mary E. Frye, a poet otherwise unknown to me, and are said to have been written in 1932.

Yours faithfully,
JOHNNY COHEN,
385 Woolton Road, Liverpool 25.

Weather watcher

From Mrs Karen Bradshaw

Sir, What Mr Roberts (letter, August 19) does not record is how many times he left home without his umbrella and got wet.

Yours faithfully,
KAREN BRADSHAW,
29 Ringford Road, SW18.

From Mr Simon Witcomb

Sir, I own neither a raincoat nor an umbrella, and reckon to get inconveniently wet once a year at most. I consider this a small price to pay for the advantage of travelling light.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON WITCOMB,
Hillside Cottage,
Beenhelm, Reading, Berkshire.

Business letters, page 17

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Paying for purity

From the Director General of the Fertiliser Manufacturers Association

Sir, You state in your leading article of August 14, "Paying for purity", that the public cannot decide on the trade-off between the quality of water they receive and the cost of providing it until they can properly assess the risks. True, but common sense comes into the judgment also.

Nitrate is natural. It comes from decaying organic matter and is normally present in water. It has to be because plants obtain the nitrate they need to grow in the water they take up. Fertiliser-derived nitrate is chemically identical to that produced organically.

Cultivating land and growing crops, whether fed by nature or manufactured fertiliser, will increase the concentration of nitrate in the water coming off that land because a natural cycle is being speeded up. Good farming practices can reduce this leaching, and should be encouraged so that nitrate in drinking water does not rise to extreme levels.

Nitrate is not a poison; its presence in the water we drink is natural and inevitable, and it is not a threat to public health.

Yours etc.,
B. HIGGS, Director General,
Fertiliser Manufacturers Association,
Greenhill House, Thorpe Wood,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

National parks

From Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Countryside Commission

Sir, Your leader, "Preserving a park" (August 18), suggests that national parks might best be run by creating all-purpose local authorities. I disagree.

Each park needs its own champion: to conserve and enhance (not "preserve") its beauty and to provide for its quiet enjoyment by local people and visitors alike. These functions could be diluted if traded off against the proper local concern for housing, roads and schools. This is why the government has supported our call for an independent authority to run each park.

Local people have the biggest voice in the running of the parks and should so continue. But the national interest is important too. For that reason we believe that ministers should continue to appoint one third of the members of the new authorities to sit alongside the two thirds appointed by local government.

Yours etc.,
JOHN JOHNSON, Chairman,
Countryside Commission,
Crescent Place, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

Under a spell

From Mrs P. M. Tett

Sir: A propos Joe Joseph's article on spelling, "Falling under the pedant's spell" (August 12), "wit and originality" may be more important if you happen to be George Orwell or Shakespeare; but, alas, most of us send for a more humdrum position — e.g., as in my case, secretary — where good spelling is still a prerequisite.

If Mr Joseph was to receive a "wonderfully entertaining" letter from his bank containing numerous spelling mistakes or the same word spelled several different ways, would he not question whether such an institution was qualified to handle his financial affairs responsibly?

Yours faithfully,
P. M. TETT,
160 Brompton Road, SW3.

Restrictions on private prosecutions

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, The citizen's right at common law to initiate a prosecution, referred to by Lord Robertson of Oakridge (letter, August 19), is matched by the state's right at common law to terminate any prosecution.

The latter exists because the overriding criterion in a particular case is whether it accords with the public interest to prosecute. The state, in the form ultimately of the Attorney General, is the judge of that.

As a former parliamentary draftsman, I can say that the decision to include in a bill a requirement for the consent of the Attorney General or Director of Public Prosecutions is taken where it is likely that, for the offence in question, some private prosecutions would be so terminated. For such cases it is better to prevent the prosecution ever being started.

Cost of planning rules

From Mr Richard Bate

Sir, The fear of awards of costs has become part of the culture of local authority planning committees. Mr Bradshaw is correct to point out (letter, August 18) that the number of costs awards in planning decisions is small compared with the total number of decisions, but councillors are more mindful of the statistic that one in eight public inquiries they lose can now be expected to result in an award of costs against them.

The only detailed review of current planning policy was published by the National Housing and Town Planning Council in 1990. It concluded that the sheer number — and unpredictability — of costs awards was damaging the planning system, as local authorities were increasingly concerned about the financial consequences of planning decisions on their budgets.

Forty of the 202 local authorities responding to a questionnaire survey actually admitted that they had come to different decisions on planning applications because of the risk of costs, even though it is doubtful whether this is legally relevant to their decisions.

Local authorities' enthusiasm for protecting the environment through planning decisions may be admirable, but reality will fall short of expectations if planners and elected councillors are not supported by government at public inquiries.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BATE (Principal),
Green Balance (Planning and Environment Services),
9 West End, Kemsing, Kent,
August 20.

What if ... ?

From Sir Adam Butler

Sir, If we are to play the what if ... game in regard to British politics with Peter Riddell (article, August 17), surely we must go back further than the 20 years he suggests. The starting point should be 1963, because it was in that year that my father, R. A. B. (Rab) Butler, was not chosen as leader of the Conservative party.

Many took the view, including the leaders of the two other parties, Harold Wilson and Jo Grimond, that the Conservatives under Rab's leadership would have won the 1964 general election.

A fourth successive defeat at that time would have had cataclysmic consequences for the Labour party, and might well have brought forward by a decade or two the commitment of all the main contestants in British politics to an essentially free

The colour of snow

From the Editor of The Statesman's Year-Book

Sir, While the fruit undoubtedly have, and need, a number of specialised words for different shades of snow, I was sorry to see Philip Howard, in his discussion of colour terminology (letter, August 15), propagating the legend that this number is "more than 70".

An amusing account of the inflationary development and definitive demolition of this legendary amount is given by the American linguist, Geoffrey Pullum, in his *The Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax* (Chicago University Press, 1991).

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HUNTER, Editor,
The Statesman's Year-Book,
The Macmillan Press Ltd,
4 Little Essex Street, WC2.

Statutory sick pay

From Mrs Gillian E. Henderson

Sir, James Matison is wrong with his figures (letter, August 19). Statutory sick pay lasts for 28 weeks and an employer can only reclaim 80 per cent, so the cost to the employer is even more than he suggests.

In a time of recession, employers faced with such unforeseeable expenditure are reluctant to increase their workforce. Who knows when the government will reduce the 80 per cent still further?

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN E. HENDERSON
(Director),
Henderson & Paterson Ltd,
10 Morningside Road, Edinburgh,
August 21.

Enterprise economy

The "wasted" years of Harold Wilson, concentrating on survival amongst the wrangling of the unions, the left and the frustrated "social democrats", would have been avoided.

Rab, the architect of post-war Conservatism, inspired and commanded the loyalty of men like Iain Macleod and Enoch Powell. Margaret Thatcher compared the work to be done following the 1979 election to the liberating economic policy of the early 1930s under Rab as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

My father was, I am sure, one of those men who both need the emblem of power — the title of office — and respond to it. And we might have had Macleod as Chancellor for years rather than for a few months.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM BUTLER,
The Old Rectory,
Lighthorne, Warwick,
August 18.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Lord Ashby, 88; Mr Paul Barber, writer and broadcaster, 57; Mrs Liz Bavage, president, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 47; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Berthon, 70; Mr Alan Brooker, former chairman, Euxine Group, 61; Sir Giles Bullard, diplomat, 66; Miss Antonia Byatt, writer, 56; Mr Charles Causley, poet, 75; Mr Carlo Curley, organist, 40; Sir James Duncan, chairman, Transport Development Group, 65; Mr Michael Franklin, civil servant, 65; Mr Stephen Fry, actor, writer, and comedian, 35; Mrs Mildred Gordon, MP, 69; the Earl of Harrington, 70; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston, former Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 70; the Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, 68; Mr Madam Pize, president, Adam Smith Institute, 52; Brigadier P.E. Stafford, former colonial officer, 97; Sir Graham Swannick, former High Court Judge, 86; Mr Sam Torrance, golfer, 39; Mr H.N. Wright, chief master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 54.

King's College

King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry
The Annual Dinner for Past and Present Students of the Medical and Dental Schools will be held on Saturday, September 26, 1992, at the Savoy Hotel, London, at 7.00 pm for 7.45 pm. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, Bessemer Road, London, SE5 9PJ (telephone 071-326 3002 (answerphone)).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.R. Bamham and Miss R.H. Adams
The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Paul Bamham, of Wells, Norfolk, and Rowena, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ignacio Adams, of La Union, Philippines.

Mr J.A. Bells and Miss E.A.C. Vetterli
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr A.G. Bells and Mrs M.A. Bells, both of Edgworth, Birmingham, and Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.H. Vetterli, of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Mr D.B. Duncan and Miss O.M. O'Doherty
The engagement is announced between Dominic, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.W. Duncan, of Monmouth, Angus, and Orla, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. O'Doherty, of Dublin.

Mr T.G. Halliwell and Miss W.P. Brice
The engagement is announced between Toby, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Halliwell, of Hurley, Westchester, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ewart Brice, of Clackmann, Argyll.

Mr M.P. Saunders and Miss K.L. Peyton-Jones
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr Peter Saunders, of Avening, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Diane P. Saunders, of Easton Grey, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Katherine, elder daughter of the late Mr Jeremy Peyton-Jones and of Mrs Jeremy Peyton-Jones, of Chelsea, London.

Mr A. Thorpe and Miss M. Wheeler
The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr John Thorpe and Mrs Patricia Thorpe, of Ashwell, Hertfordshire, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alynne Wheeler, of Thetford, Norfolk.

Mr A.D.B. Wright and Miss S.P. Brayshaw
The engagement is announced between Anthony, elder son of the late Mr L.B. Wright and of Mrs J.E. Wright, of Ashwell, Hertfordshire, and Susan, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.B. Brayshaw, of Barby, West Yorkshire.

University of Ulster

Mrs Nicola O'Loan to be the Jean Monnet lecturer in European Law.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Herrick, poet, London, 1591; George Stubbs, painter, Liverpool, 1724; William Wilberforce, leader of the anti-slavery movement, Hull, 1759; James Weddell, Antarctic explorer, Oxford, 1787; Sir Max Beerholm, caricaturist and writer, London, 1872; Jorge Luis Borges, poet, Buenos Aires, 1899; Graham Sutherland, painter, London, 1903.

DEATHS: ¶ Parnigianini, (Francesco Manzoni), painter, Cremona, 1540; Thomas Chatterton, poet, committed suicide, London, 1770; Sadi Carnot, scientist, Paris, 1832; Genulo Vargas, president of Brazil, 1930-45, committed suicide, Rio de Janeiro, 1954; Johannes Strijdom, prime minister of S Africa 1954-58, Cape Town, 1958; Felix Topolski, artist, 1989.
Eruption of Mount Vesuvius, destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum; among the thousands who perished was the naturalist, Pliny the Elder, AD79. Rome was captured by the Visigoths, AD410. Massacre of the Protestants in France (St Bartholomew's Day) 1572. Washington captured by British forces, 1814. Matthew (Captain) Webb became first person to swim the English Channel, Dover to Calais in 22hrs, 1875.

School news

Westworth Milton Mount, Basingstoke
An Alumni Weekend will be held on October 2-4, for Old Girls (pre-1980) and their families. Opportunities for lessons, extra-curricular activities and special Supper. OGS should contact the school office (0202 423266) for details.

Marriages

Mr A.J.L. Peake and Lady Tanya Cochrane
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Luke's, Sydney Street, London, of Mr Anthony Peake, younger son of Mr and Mrs P.L. Peake, of Chantry Dene, Surrey, to Lady Tanya Cochrane, only daughter of the late Earl and Countess of Dundonald and step-daughter of the Dowager Countess of Dundonald, of La Haule, Jersey. The Rev N.S. Vigors officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, the Earl of Dundonald, was attended by Mrs Eileen Egan, of Clagg, Charles Peake, Lord Cochrane, Tom Drysdale and Frederick Holmes. Mr Giles Berkeley was best man. A reception was held at the Langham Hilton and the honeymoon will be spent in Italy.
Mr N.W.A. Morrison and Miss C.E. Molloy
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Bartholomew's, Haslemere, Surrey, of Mr Neil Morrison, son of the late Rev 'Hon Niall' Morrison and of Dr Sheila Morrison, to Miss Clare C.E. Molloy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Molloy. The Rev Graham Hawkes officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Alison Mary Broad and Miss Elizabeth Iona Morrison. Mr Tim Burbridge was best man. A reception was held at Ramster, Chiddingfold, Surrey, and the honeymoon will be spent in Fiji and the Cook Islands.
Mr G.R. Tillyard and Miss E.F. Thomas
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Joseph's, Havant, Hampshire, of Mr Guy Tillyard, son of Mr Robin Tillyard, of Granborough, Buckinghamshire, and of Mrs Michael Chaner, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, to Miss Emma Thomas, daughter of Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Thomas, of Emsworth, Hampshire. Canon Dermot Fogarty officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Kathleen de Courcy Ling and Miss Amy Chaner. Mr Andrew Cox was best man. The reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.
Mr D.A.G. Shaw and Miss S.B.R. Smith
The marriage took place quietly in London on Wednesday, August 19, between Mr David Simon, CBE, and Miss Sarah Smith.



The marriage took place on Saturday in St Luke's, Sydney Street, London, of Mr Anthony Peake, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Peake, of Chantry Dene, Surrey, and Lady Tanya Jean Cochrane, step-daughter of the Dowager Countess of Dundonald, of La Haule, Jersey

Eric Evans

Cathedrals were built to give man a glimpse of eternity

The cathedral commission recently set up by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York has as its terms of reference "To examine the future role in church and nation of the cathedrals of the Church of England and to make recommendations as to how best that role could be fulfilled, including proposals for their government and support." The work is expected to last two years.

There have been down the centuries many enquiries and commissions relating to cathedrals and each one, doubtless, has caused certain anxieties among deans and chapters, but the difference between the present commission and earlier ones is that on

this occasion the cathedrals have asked for it to be set up themselves; so if the findings are not to our liking, we have only ourselves to blame. The commission will have to consider many different aspects of cathedral life as well as their financing. It is to be hoped that sight will not be lost as to what a cathedral is for.

In order that we should not lose sight of our task and true function, (for every institution is at times in danger of finding that the immediate and urgent crowds out the essential), the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's sat down quietly and after an hour of discussion, drew up a definition of what they believed St Paul's to be for. We

call it our Mission Statement. Our purpose is to proclaim the Christian Gospel according to the practices and traditions of the Church of England, and in an environment of excellence and beauty, to uplift the minds of men, women and children to the things of the Spirit.

To achieve that purpose, the clergy and lay staff offer daily worship to God, provide pastoral care, serve the crown, the nation, the City and the diocese, work to fulfil the stewardship of St Paul's heritage and subject to maintaining an environment of excellence and beauty, attract as many visitors as possible to uplift their minds and finally, to earn as much money

as necessary for the cathedral itself. (You earn as much money for the cathedral itself in order to perform these other tasks.)

Cathedrals need to be exemplars. All cathedrals should try to offer the best in music, in art, in architecture, to be, in a sense, a patron of the arts as much as finances allow us, and above everything else, an exemplar in worship, because all that we do has to be done in the context of making it an offering to God. Cathedrals were built for this purpose—to lift up the mind of man to worship, giving man a glimpse of eternity. Nothing is really more important than that. All our preaching should be directed in that way. All our

worship, all our music, should be with that in mind. In the end, our job as cathedrals, I believe, is to put Man in touch with God and nothing is more important than that. All the conferences and international organisations which discuss the needs of Man and the life of the world and how to solve them are of no worth unless the heart of Man himself is in tune with God. And worship helps more than any other thing to put the heart of Man in tune with God.

My own personal belief is that anyone, if they come to worship, whether it be in a cathedral or a parish church, if they really try to concentrate on what is going on, either said or sung or simply visually looking around at the architecture, it would be rare for that person to leave exactly in the same state as he or she was when they came in. No-one can absorb the atmosphere of a great ecclesiastical building without something rubbing off. Our hope is that all those who come to our cathedrals will have a glimpse of glory, and we who are responsible for these great buildings have a solemn and sacred duty to try to offer everyone who comes through our doors, just that. It can be done given the right will and the right intention. We faithful human beings who have the privilege of serving in these great places, if our hearts are right, I believe we can achieve the well-nigh miraculous even today. This is what we mean when we say "To uplift the minds of men and women in an environment of excellence and beauty to the things of the spirit."

The author is Dean of St Paul's.

A word was omitted from Dr Margaret Beaufort's article on New Age ideology published last Monday. The sentence should have read: "Historically, this ideology is the culmination of a process begun by Schopenhauer, Wagner and Nietzsche."

Beetle endangers millions of spruce trees

By CRAIG SETON

A SURVEY starts next month to assess the progress of a biological battle being waged to save millions of spruce trees in Britain from the ravages of a beetle that feeds underneath their bark. The great spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*) has destroyed up to 100,000 trees since it arrived accidentally from Europe, about 20 years ago. Its activities are now being successfully curbed by entomologists of the Forestry Authority who brought it in about eight years ago on another continental beetle, *Rhyacionia grandis*, that feeds exclusively on its fellow immigrant.

Infestation is of the spruce bark beetle have been largely confined to trees in Wales, but the Forestry Authority, part of the Forestry Commission, has carried out regular surveys to check its movement and monitor the success of *Rhyacionia grandis* in keeping it under control.

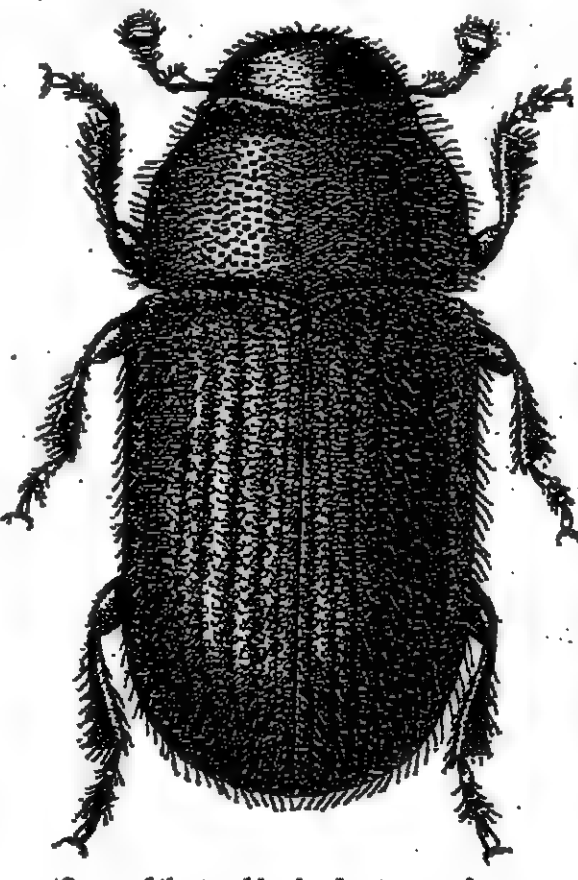
The next survey begins on September 8, when house-holders and woodland owners will help to check spruce trees in a corridor of land 10 kilometres wide along the

English border with Wales. Trees in an area totalling 4,000 square kilometres will be examined.

The Forestry Authority has bred *Rhyacionia grandis* in large numbers at its laboratory at Ludlow, Shropshire, and introduced wherever the spruce bark beetle is found. It is now breeding naturally.

Nick Fielding, an entomologist with the authority, who has worked on ways to control the spruce bark beetle for nearly ten years, said it probably would not be completely eradicated.

Mr Fielding said the beetle had been found in the Bowland Forest in Lancashire and the new survey was expected to show it had reached English counties bordering Wales. He added: "We want to keep it out of Scotland and the border counties. The *Rhyacionia grandis* is one of the few examples of biological control in this country using one insect against another." He said that at its best the predator was between 90 and 95 per cent efficient.



Cause of the trouble: dendroctonus micans

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

DEATHS

ADDIS - On 22nd August 1992, Mrs. Margaret, aged 84, wife of the late Mr. Robert Addis, died at home. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

CAMPBELL - On August 19th, 1992, at Luton (late Steven) and Andrew, a son, Alexander, 19, died. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

KIRKPATRICK - On August 19th, 1992, at Luton (late Steven) and Andrew, a son, Alexander, 19, died. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

MANSELL LEWIS - On August 20th, 1992, at Luton (late Steven) and Andrew, a son, Alexander, 19, died. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

POTTINGER - On August 21st, 1992, at Luton (late Steven) and Andrew, a son, Alexander, 19, died. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

RICHARDS-DAVIES - On August 24th, 1992, at Luton (late Steven) and Andrew, a son, Alexander, 19, died. A funeral service will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday, August 27th, at St. John's Church, Clarendon Road, Clarendon. Family flowers only.

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LEGAL NOTICES

J.E. BUTTERWORTH LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the company, J.E. BUTTERWORTH LIMITED, has been placed into liquidation. The liquidator is Mr. J.E. BUTTERWORTH, of 1, The Quadrant, London, W1A 1AA.

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Road may be site of king's burial

ARCHAEOLOGISTS are to excavate a hill that is in the way of a new road to see if it contains King Arthur's grave (Craig Seton writes).

Wychbury Hill in Hereford and Worcester is in the path of the proposed £115 million Kidderminster, Blakedown and Hagley by-pass. Objectors have claimed that the route of the new road, involving a tunnel through the hillside, would disturb a site that local research suggested could be the legendary king's burial ground.

The claims have led the transport department to ask archaeologists from the county council to carry out surveys that will include excavation of Wychbury Hill, which contains the remains of an Iron Age fort and other earthworks.

A department spokesman said yesterday that the archaeological findings would be presented at a public enquiry that is expected to be announced in the proposed route of the 10 mile by-pass later this year.

She said: "The department did an awful lot of environmental and archaeological research before the plans were drawn up. Nothing we have turned up so far has indicated that possibility, but because of the scale of these claims the department has asked for fresh research."

A team of five from the county archaeology department is expected to take two months carrying out its surveys and excavations, which will include other sites of potential interest on the proposed by-pass route. Its members are aware that many other sites in Britain have been suggested as the burial ground of King Arthur.

Local legend apparently suggests that Wychbury Hill, the third of the seven Clent Hills, was the scene of one of King Arthur's famous battles. He was supposed to have been buried under other warriors under one of seven yew trees planted over his graves.

Malcolm Cooper, the county archaeologist, said yesterday that Arthurian legend was full of gentle hints and misty suggestions. "From an archaeological point of view, I remain somewhat unconvinced. Even if we uncovered a burial site and put a date on it, it would be difficult to be specific about the personalities involved. I saw a news item recently about two historians who think the site is in Shropshire. We will have to try and draw out hard facts as opposed to supposition."

The transport department has received over 2,000 written objections to the proposed route of the by-pass on roads specially prepared by Friends of the Earth. It has received 100 other objections. Work on the new road could start in about 1995. The transport department said its completion would bring much needed relief to a heavily trafficked road corridor.

Granville Calder, an independent archaeologist, who has carried out

OBITUARIES

JOHN STURGES

John Sturges, director of some of the cinema's most popular Westerns, died on August 18 aged 81. He was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on January 3, 1911.

"A WESTERN," John Sturges once wrote, "is a controlled, disciplined, formal kind of entertainment. There's good and evil; clearly defined issues; there's a chase; there's a gunfight. You like to see the same formula and the same technique done well."

At the top of his form, though, John Sturges proved more than a mechanical manipulator of one of Hollywood's most popular genres. In films of the Fifties like *Bad Day at Black Rock*, *Last Train to Gun Hill* and *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*, Sturges created taut revenge dramas, strikingly shot in rugged landscapes. In the early Sixties, his flair for physical action was showcased anew in two influential box-office hits, *The Magnificent Seven* (an Americanisation of Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai*) and the prisoner-of-war camp drama *The Great Escape*, which firmly established the star credentials of Steve McQueen.

In terms of film technique, Sturges remained conservative. Trained as an editor at RKO Studios, he always shot scenes with the editing bench in mind, and had a horror of fancy camera angles (he told *Films and Filming* readers in 1962: "I try very hard not to get arty"). Outside the Western, his unadorned, somewhat humdrum style often proved a liability. The style of *Hemingway* slipped through his fingers in *The Old Man and the Sea* (1958), and he foundered whenever the stories turned mushy (*By Love Possessed*, 1961) or frivolous (*Sergeants 3*, 1962). But give him a good script, an outcrop of rock and a man on horseback bent on vengeance, and Sturges could generate outdoor films crackling with electricity.

Born in the Chicago suburb of Oak Hill (also the birthplace of Ernest Hemingway), John Sturges completed his education at Marjorie College and entered the film industry in 1932. At RKO, he served in the art and editing departments, and briefly worked as assistant to David O. Selznick, then chief of production.

By the time the United States entered the second world war, he had established himself as a film editor, and continued in battle dress, serving as a captain with the Air Corps. He edited and directed some 45 docu-



Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster, John Sturges and De Forest Kelley prepare for the showdown in *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*

mentaries and training films, including *Thunderbolt* (1945), a feature-length film about tactical bombing raids over Germany, co-directed by William Wyler.

When the war ended, Sturges found a berth as director at Columbia. *The Man Who Dared* (1946), his first fiction feature, told of a newspaper columnist embroiled in a murder. *For the Love of Rusty* (1947) saw a painting Alaskan bringing father and son together. But it was *The Walking Hills* in 1949, a Randolph Scott Western about a hunt for buried treasure, that pointed the way to Sturges's future. *Escape from Fort Bravo* (1953), made for MGM, marked another step forward. The story was routine, but Sturges never let the tension sag, and made dramatic use of the new space on offer in the wide-screen format. Then came the excellent *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955), a contemporary tale starring Spencer Tracy (a friend and champion of the director). Pro-

duced in the wake of *High Noon*, *Bad Day* told of a one-armed man who arrives in a surly desert hamlet determined to find the father of a Japanese-American war colleague. It bristled with liberal sentiments dear to the heart of the producer Dore Schary. Sturges, for his part, pounced on the CinemaScope frame's spatial possibilities, and demonstrated his skill with actors. Aside from Tracy, Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine were particularly memorable as menacing townsfolk.

Gunfight at the O.K. Corral (1956) returned to traditional Western ingredients, with the familiar figures of Wyatt Earp (Burt Lancaster) and Doc Holliday (Kirk Douglas). The gunfight itself, six minutes long, took 44 hours to film: the effort paid off with a showdown that capped the story in spectacular style.

A substantial box-office success, *Gunfight* changed Hollywood's perception of the Western's potential. Producers realised that with major

stars, glossy visuals, a generous budget and splashy action set-pieces, Westerns could appeal to spectators who would never sit through a humble horse opera. The effect on Sturges's own career was mixed: his films grew bigger and more popular still, yet he lost in the process much of the sharp edge that made his Westerns of the 1950s so satisfying.

The Magnificent Seven (1960), the story of paid pursuers fighting to rout bandits from a small Mexican town, was directed with great dash, and helped pave the way for the spaghetti Western boom. It also gave many players, among them Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson and James Coburn, a significant boost in popularity.

The Great Escape (1964), inspired by Paul Brickhill's account of a mass break-out from a German POW camp, similarly featured an ensemble cast, joined together on a grand mission. Again, Sturges relished his action scenes, like Steve McQueen's

ride on a purloined Nazi bike, but the sense of an impersonal exercise remained. Following *The Great Escape*, Sturges experienced difficulty finding congenial projects.

Some of his old flair returned in *Hour of the Gun* (1967), which continued Earp and Holliday's story after the O.K. Corral. But he was ill-equipped for the dawdling spoof Western *The Hallelujah Trail* (1968), and found little to interest him in the Arctic antics of 1968's *For Station Zebra* or the astronaut drama *Marooned* (1969).

By this time, Sturges had become marooned himself, stranded by shifts in fashion and the fluctuating fortunes of big-budget cinema. His last film, made in England, was *The Eagle Has Landed* (1976), a lavish but ponderous version of Jack Higgins's novel about a Nazi plot to kidnap Churchill. Sturges was much better off saddled up, roaming the West. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

DONALD STEWART

Donald Stewart, PC, former parliamentary leader of the Scottish National Party, died yesterday aged 71. He was born in Stormway on October 17, 1920.

DONALD Stewart was the first Scottish Nationalist to win a parliamentary seat at a general election. A popular and avuncular figure who believed passionately that the only hope for Scotland was self-government, he went on to become an effective parliamentary leader of the party, steering it coolly through the heady, oil-induced excitement of potential devolution in the mid-1970s. He successfully fought five general elections, holding his Western Isles seat for 17 years until his retirement in 1987.

The son of a ship's engineer whose ancestors included crofters, shepherds and fishermen, Donald Stewart was educated at the Nicolson Institute, Stormway, and was a fluent Gaelic speaker. Inspired by the exploits of Wallace and Bruce, he became a member of the Scottish National Party at the age of 15, when nationalism was generally considered to be little more than romantic nonsense. His first job was as an office clerk. He then joined a Harris Tweed manufacturer, and in the second world war joined the Royal Navy, serving in HMS *Calcutta*, a Flower class Corvette escorting Atlantic convoys. After the war, he returned to Harris Tweed and resumed his political activities, winning election to the Stormway town council. He served as Provost of Stormway from 1958 to 1964 and from 1968 to 1970 and, with the nationalist revival of 1966, he became a parliamentary candidate. He carefully nursed the Western Isles seat, which had been held by Labour for 35 years until the general election of 1970, when he won a narrow victory. He thus became the first Nationalist — Welsh or Scots — in the Commons. He was careful, however, to avoid becoming simply a figurehead in a nationalist crusade. His primary concerns were the appalling social conditions of the Western Isles: unemployment (with 25 per cent of the working population on the dole), emigration, alcoholism and costly transport. In his maiden speech, Stewart spoke against British Summer Time for the islands. He also made a symbolic presentation to the United States government, via its embassy in London, of a bill for £500 million for the use of Holy Loch as a Polaris base.

His conservative nationalism suited both the Calvinism of the northern islands and the Catholicism of the southern ones. As well as favouring Scotland's breakaway from England, he opposed easy divorce and abortion and supported capital punishment. Although his expectations of devolution proved optimistic, Stewart increased, over the years, the regard with which he was held by both supporters and opponents.

He was made a Privy Counsellor in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Christie.

Four years later, he won two out of every three votes cast. Having sat alone as a nationalist in his first parliament, he was joined in 1974 by six more. By then, Stewart was 53, a ruddy complexioned, genial, pipe-smoking figure who inspired respect, and his new Commons colleagues elected him their leader without a ballot. By 1975 their total had risen to ten.

By this time, the development of Scotland's off-shore oil industry had inflamed enthusiasm for independence from London, and the SNP was enjoying the benefits of the government's narrow parliamentary majority. Enthusiasm for devolution was such that Stewart experienced the backlash at Westminster. The prospect of a Scottish assembly, so consistently and casually promised by English politicians, began to loom as the thin end of a wedge that would eventually lead to Scottish independence. The antagonism in the House of Commons to such an eventuality, said Stewart, was palpable.

He took full advantage of the situation, outlining in deliberately undramatic style, the step-by-step process towards independence: first the passage of a Bill setting up an elected Scottish assembly which would in turn create an irresistible demand for control



over industry, then a fixed share of the oil revenues and then budget control. Scotland, he emphasised, wanted full sovereignty with control of borders, oil revenues and a separate defence force. "One day," he predicted, "we'll wake up and find that, without quite realising it, we've been given the whole cake."

If what he proposed sounded to his listeners revolutionary, Donald Stewart, was always far from being a revolutionary and was always quick to emphasise that the SNP had always opposed any road other than the democratic one.

Although his expectations of devolution proved optimistic, Stewart increased, over the years, the regard with which he was held by both supporters and opponents. He was made a Privy Counsellor in 1977. He is survived by his wife, Christie.

RAYMOND BROOKS-WARD

Raymond Brooks-Ward, equestrian commentator and horse show director, died on August 22 aged 62. He was born on April 9, 1930.

RAYMOND Brooks-Ward, known as the voice of show-jumping, had been a television commentator for over 30 years, but behind the scenes he had also been a great promoter of, and fund-raiser for, equestrian sports and a highly successful show director. His advice and business expertise, as well as his public profile, were highly valued in the equestrian world.

Brooks-Ward grew up in Hertfordshire and developed his interest in horses through the Enfield Chase branch of the Pony Club. Fox-hunting became his great passion in life. From 1958 to 1974 he was master of the West Lodge-based Foxhounds, and in 1972 he became a joint master of the Enfield Chase, remaining with it until he moved to Cornwall, where he became master of the North Cornwall Hunt.

His love of hunting had first taken root in 1951, when he joined the Royal Corps of Transport. He was with the army for three years, but by his own admission, spent much of that time hunting with the Aldershot Beagles.

A brief spell in the hotel industry, following in his father's footsteps, was given up in favour of running a dairy farm in Hertfordshire, but his involvement as a commentator at local shows gradually developed and it was not long before he was supplementing his farmwork with commentating at big shows all over the country. In 1956 he gained his first experience in television when asked to stand in for the racing commentator Peter O'Sullivan. He joined ITV in 1960 as a show jumping commentator and ten years later moved to the BBC with which he began covering eventing and dressage, as well as show jumping. His most recent commentaries were heard from Barcelo-



na, where he covered all the Olympic equestrian events, and he was due to be commentating again for the BBC at the British Open Championships at Gatcombe Park last weekend.

As well as his work for television, Brooks-Ward was involved in public relations and sponsorship for the sport. In 1974 he set up British Equestrian Promotions (BEP) with his friend Bob Dean with the aim of running horse shows and finding sponsors. Among the shows he directed were the Royal International and the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley. He was also the driving force behind the Christmas show at Olympia, which was established in 1972 and has

become the most popular indoor horse show in the country.

Brooks-Ward left BEP last year to set up the British branch of Best Communications Management with his eldest son, Simon, and his most recent project was the Pavarotti International Show in Italy, which is due to take place next month. He had been working with great enthusiasm on this before his sudden death at his home near Truro. A great family man, he was particularly fond of his Cornish farmhouse, from where, in addition to his riding interests, he loved going out to mess about in boats.

His influence in the horse world was far-reaching and his enthusiasm never diminished. Captain Mark Phillips, director of the horse trials at Gatcombe Park, described him as "the public face, image and voice of all equestrian sports". Hugh Thomas, who worked with Brooks-Ward at BEP for seven years and is now the director of Badminton Horse Trials, said: "We have lost a good friend as well as one of the greatest equestrian personalities. He was a warm, generous and kind-hearted man who has helped a great many of us in the equestrian world."

Brooks-Ward once said of his work: "I never tire of it. It's like theatre. An actor puts as much into the 300th performance of a play as he puts into the first."

Speaking to *Radio Times* in 1986, he said that he saw his role as commentator as being to "fill in the background without being too obtrusive", adding: "People like to know little bits, like what events a certain horse and rider have won before, where they've had clear rounds, how high they've jumped and bits of family history. Richard Dimbleby used to say that if you were doing half-an-hour's commentary, you should do one-and-a-half-hour's homework. I've never forgotten that, as he was the best commentator ever."

Brooks-Ward leaves a widow, Dinny, and three sons, Simon, James and Nicholas.

SHIRLEY FALLOON

S.W.H.W. Falloon, formerly physicist in the department of radiotherapeutics, Cambridge, died on August 1, aged 82, while on holiday at St Agnes, Isles of Scilly. He was born on November 20, 1909, in what was then British East Africa.

SHIRLEY Falloon had made significant but unobtrusive contributions over a wide area of science, including radio research, radar development, the treatment of cancer and education. These contributions cannot be measured in terms of his few publications; his interest lay in the usefulness of his work, rather than in any personal credit.

Yet there are many scientists all over the world who have enjoyed and acknowledged remarkably fruitful collaboration with him, and on to whom will have rubbed off some of the very characteristic style of Falloon's research.

It was a style incorporating elements from each stage of his career: the "string and sealing wax" techniques of a research student of Rutherford's era, the flashes of intuitive inspiration probably derived from his time with T. Eckersley at the Marconi Company, and the healthy contempt for established authority, perhaps originating in wartime at the Admiralty Signals Establishment. To the envy, and sometimes fury, of his colleagues, he had "green fingers" with electronic appa-

ratus: he could coax into action equipment that did not work and which often should not have worked. In his later years, he succeeded in giving the impression of a wilful opposition to innovation, while retaining the ability to use the latest techniques whenever they proved appropriate.

Falloon's father, the Reverend W. M. Falloon, was a missionary. From Dover College, he went up to his father's old college, Queens', Cambridge. His flair for teaching physics to undergraduates was discovered when he returned to Cambridge after the war. Innumerate biologists and other "special cases" would emerge from Falloon's supervision not only with examination success but also with a real enthusiasm for physics. He continued thus to teach well into his retirement. This same enthusiasm was communicated to children, at first to friends' children, perhaps on the brink of Common Entrance or A-level, then, as his reputation as a brilliant teacher spread, to a far wider circle.

He was deeply concerned about physics teaching in schools and only a month before his death wrote a strong criticism of the revision process by a major examining board. His friendship with pupils and their parents would often be consolidated on skiing and camping expeditions. "Teaching" was forgotten, yet the close connection between science and real life might creep out while watching the weather, or canoeing.

Nature notes

Many migrant birds are now on the move. Wilder coming down from the Arctic include flocks of knots, which feed sedately on the sand along the sea's edge. Some retain the chestnut heads of their summer plumage, some are now all white and grey. Dunlins, which are distinctly smaller, often wade through the water with their heads above the surface, while some of these are also still in summer dress, with black stomachs, while others are white below. Both these species walk sulkily, and are even smaller than dunlins, run along the shore at high speed.

The flowers of late summer are out in abundance. Common fleabane, which is like a tarnished gold daisy, grows among the long grass. Gypsophylla is found on drier banks. It is a long-leaved, harmless daisy, with its flowers arranged in white bracelets all the way up the stem. Black horehound with pink, star-shaped flowers and a smell of decay, grows in thick clumps on the roadside. Golden rod is opening, both the large specimens that have escaped from gardens, and the smaller native flowers that are common on moorland in the West of England.

The Rev Norman Beggs, non-stipendiary minister, Milborne St Andrew (stipendiary), Milborne St Andrew (stipendiary), Piddletrenthide w Plush, Alton Pancras and Piddletrenthide (from October 1); (Salisbury). The Rev Hilary Benson, Parish Deacon (NSM), St Bede, Brandwood: to be also Assistant Chaplain (part-time), University of Birmingham (Birmingham). The Rev John Bishop, Team Vicar, St Paul's, Bristol Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge Barrow Gurney, Flax Bourton, and Assistant Resources Adviser for the diocese (Bath and Wells). The Rev Jane Butler, Assistant Chaplain, Leicester Royal Infirmary: to be Chaplain's Assistant for the Mental Health Services Unit, Leicester Health Authority, w special

responsibility for Towers Hospital (Leicester). The Rev David Callard, Team Rector, Swanage and Studland Team Ministry, and Chaplain, Swanage Hospitals: to be Team Rector, Oakdale St George Team Ministry (Salisbury). The Rev Patrick Coghlan, returning from work with SAMS in Brazil to be Vicar, Anston (Sheffield). The Rev John Cooke, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Balby, Doncaster: to be also Rural Dean of West Doncaster (Sheffield). The Rev John Cooke, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Balby, Doncaster: to be also Priest-in-charge, Childs Ercall and Stoke-on-Tern (Lichfield). The Rev Philip Edge, Incumbent, St Anselm, Belmont, Stanmore (London): to be Vicar, Ellesmere and Welsh Frankton (Lichfield).

The Rev David Hawkins, Resident Minister, Hedsor, District Church of St Michael: to be Vicar, Bulwades and Leighton w Eaton Constantine and Wroxeter (Lichfield). The Rev Lawrence Jenkins, Vicar, St Aidan's, Wheatley Hill, Doncaster: to be also Rural Dean of Doncaster (Sheffield). The Rev Philip Lambert, Rector, united benefice of Curry Rivel w Fivehead and Swell: to be also Vicar of Doncaster (Bath and Wells). The Rev Scott Lison, previously Curate, diocese Edinburgh: to be Chaplain, Guy's Marsh HM Prison, Youth Custody Centre, nr Shaftesbury (Salisbury). The Rev Glenys Lloyd, Team Minister, Stoke Aldermoor (Coventry): to be Resident Minister, Childs Ercall and

Stoke-on-Tern (Lichfield). The Rev Colin Macdonald, Assistant Curate, Great Limbrey: to be Priest-in-charge, Barrow on Humber and New Holland w Goxhill (Lincoln). The Rev Stuart Matthews, Rector, St Mary the Virgin, Sproughton, Doncaster: to be also an Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield). The Rev Darrol Reagon, Vicar, the Rectory, Scunthorpe: to be Priest-in-charge, Bransford: Nocton and Potterharworth (Lincoln). The Rev Paul Robson, Chaplain, HM Prison, Norwich (Norwich): to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Bristford (Lichfield). The Rev Adrian Sullivan, Priest-in-charge, Puddletown and Tolpiddle: appointed also Priest-in-charge, Milborne St Andrew and Dewlish, and Piddletrenthide

w Plush, Alton Pancras and Piddletrenthide (from October 1) (Salisbury). The Rev John Raw, Team Vicar, Sheffield Manor Team: to be Vicar, Clifton, Rotherham (Sheffield). The Rev Peter Wright, Rector, Aston-cum-Laughton w Ulley: to be also an Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral (Sheffield). The Rev John Young, Vicar, St Andrew, Crewes: to be Vicar, St Leonard, Penwortham (Blackburn). Resignations and retirements The Rev Jonathan Burke, Vicar, Bere Regis and Affpuddle w Turnerspuddle (Salisbury): to resign as from September 8. The Rev Dennis Caddy, Rector, Corsey w Chappmansdale (Salisbury): to retire as from November 30.

August 24 ON THIS DAY 1875

For those who had enjoyed and felt at home with *Trollope's* *Barsetshire*, *The Way We Live Now* must have come as something of a cultural shock for this was a satirical *Trollope* looking with a curd of the lip at the "collapse of standards and of social order before new methods of finance."

RECENT NOVELS.


"The Way We Live Now," by Anthony Trollope (2 vols. Chapman and Hall), is only too faithful a portrait of the manners and customs of the English at the latter part of this 19th century. For all its exasperation, however, it is neither a caricature nor a photograph; it is a likeness of the face which society wears to-day. There is its hollow smile, so often worn over tears and anxieties, its stereotyped expression of conventional politeness, its smoothness, and its falseness.

Yet Mr. Trollope shows in his own inimitable way that this very conventionality is the price we pay for our high civilization, this insidious representativeness is the silent police which keeps the discordant social elements in order, and, like the air we breathe, is the quiet harmonizer of all things. Mr. Trollope's hand has not lost its cunning, nor his mind its habit of just observation. One of his distinguishing peculiarities as a writer is his extreme fairness. His great anxiety seems to deal an exact and even-handed justice to each of his characters. Does he describe a Melmore, with his odious, purse-proud, pompous manners? then he hastens to add some line or two, giving the man credit for powers of concentration, boldness of conception, and financial pluck. Are his readers growing impatient with Felsa Carbury's selfish extravagance? the portrait is straightaway softened by a touch or two, or the force of education

and habit is pleaded for the lazy, dissolute young man. If it should be necessary to declare in two or three words Mr. Trollope's strongest points of delineation, there would be but one opinion — ladies of a certain age, and Bishops. Lady Carbury could never exist, except on Mr. Trollope's pages. That is to say, no other writer would dream of demanding our sympathy for a middle-aged woman who writes indifferent novels, and whose sorrows arise from the extravagance of her spoiled son and the determination of her daughter not to marry an eligible cousin. Yet our hearts melt with Lady Carbury from the moment we first see her scribbling diplomatic little notes at her desk, until we take leave of her, a more sensible woman by far, kneeling at a stout, elderly Mr. Broune's feet, his promised wife.

So that is Mr. Trollope to his theory that there is good under the least attractive surface, that Melmore is no villain. He is a man with nothing to lose and everything to gain. The social risks which others run, the social deaths which others die, do not touch him, for he is sharp enough to know that though in society to a certain extent he is not of it, and can never be. Such a man compels a certain sort of grudging admiration from even the least scornful souls by his audacity, his courage, his resources, and - his success. Still the reader never loses the sense of how frail a bridge is gold after all, tricker than ice, and quite as slippery. Even when the star of the house of Melmore culminates in a superb entertainment to the Emperor of China, one feels only that Heaven-born compassion which it is no shame to feel even towards crime. With ruin and disgrace staring him in the face, Melmore can still make a point of being presented to the Emperor of China. In conclusion it may fairly be declared that this is one of Mr. Trollope's very best stories, and that it ought to be read more for its ostensible mission of merely amusing or interesting its readers.

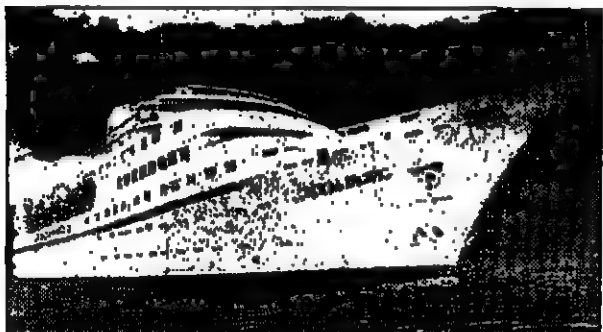
BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT



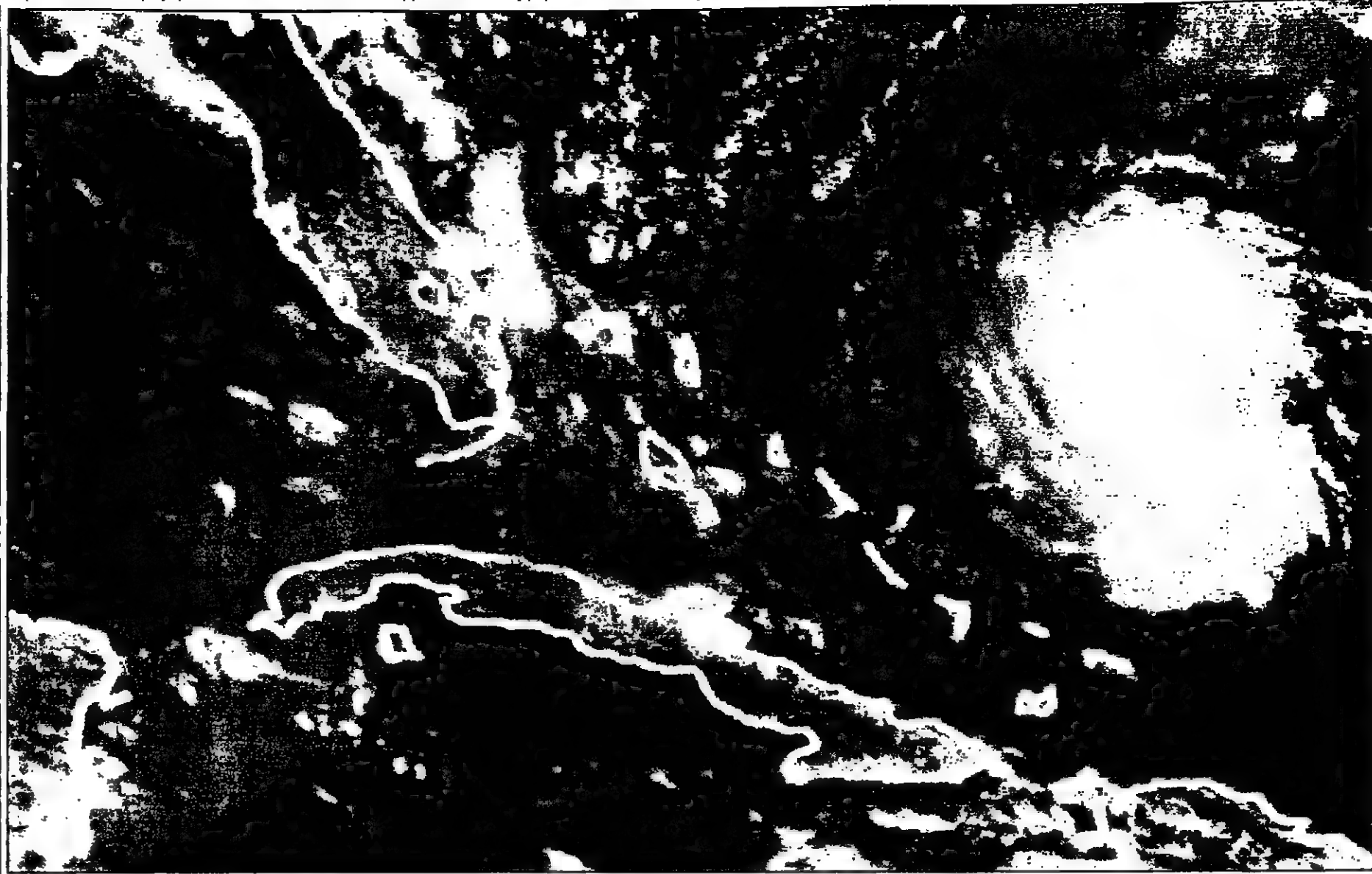
Before the collision: the

Malaysian officials said that 196 passengers and crew were rescued by a Bahamas-registered dry cargo vessel, *Marisa*, and another 325 were saved by the Russian-owned container ship *Chapaevsk*. The survivors were all being taken back to Singapore from where the *Royal Pacific* sailed on Friday.

Letters, page 11



Before the collision: the ill-starred *Royal Pacific*



Path of the storm: a satellite photograph shows the 90mph Hurricane Andrew heading west over the Atlantic, north of Cuba and Haiti, towards the Florida coast

Israel eases security restrictions to woo Palestinian delegates

Haim Ramon, the health minister, said last night that further steps for the Palestinians could be taken if they responded to the gesture. "What we are saying to the Palestinians is that we would like to create a new atmosphere and give a real chance to the peace process. We are telling them, you see if you

Although talks on the future of the Palestinians are likely to dominate, there may be movement in the Israeli-Syrian meetings, where Ita-

"A clear pattern is emerging in this part of the region, which suggests the days of conflict are over and the talking will begin," said Karimoun. Pakradouni, a leading figure in the right-wing Lebanese Christian Phalange party. His view appeared to be shared with senior Palestine Liberation Organisation members and Jordanian officials, who remained suspicious of Israel's intentions, but who nonetheless were prepared to give Mr Rabin a chance to prove them wrong.

No-fly zone, page 8

At Balmoral, the royal family pursued their normal Sunday routine. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of York emerged in a limousine for the short tour-

The Duke and Duchess, who were married in Westminster Abbey in 1986 amid the full panoply of a royal wedding, announced five months ago that they were to separate. Mr Bryan and others have tried to hint that the couple were attempting a reconciliation, but it is more likely that the Duchess's latest visit to Balmoral was to finalise details of the separation, and to discuss details of a possible divorce.

Best of term, page 2

ACROSS	
1 In cavalry war, many are disabled (4,2,6).	24 Name a perfume at an early stage of development (7).
5 Fully conversant with a regional railway system? (7).	25 In Cochín, a construction of an old boat-builder (7).
6 Canoe singles after several notes (7).	26 Tool for one pretending to box in a shell (6-6).
11 Birdman has a classical way to rise initially (7).	DOWN
12 Organic compound present in tripe, and no mistake! (7).	1 Difficult to accept state head of education subjected to badgering (7).
13 Injunction calling for peace and tranquility (7).	2 Note on a performer making a mistake (7).
14 One capitalizing on a notable feat by a king (9).	3 Out-putting blunder in incomplete accord (9).
16 This is the brass-player's pigeon! (9).	4 In Balzac he appeared contemptible (5).
19 She has partners outside America (5).	5 Big-time criminal, if raised in Chinese leader's circle (7).
21 Act like Bunter before being thrown into round tank (7).	6 Pistol for an old man (7).
23 Cocktail for morose — very small, by the sound of it (7).	7 Face none so sophisticated — but not a woman. It turns out (3,5,4).
	10 Since some run, new creature (7).

**The solution of
Saturday's Prize
Puzzle No 19,004 will
appear next Saturday.
The 5 winners will
receive a Duofold
fountain pen supplied
by Parker**

Concise Crossword, page 11
Life & Times section


RESEARCH

N W Scotland	726	Sweden 1988 FY	2.010	2.485
Guthrie, Orkney & Shetland	728	Turkey Lira	14400	13400
N Ireland	727	USA \$	2.03	1.80
		Yugoslavia Dnr	500	

[illegible]

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; b, fog; r, rain; s, sun.						
	C	F		C	F	
Belfast	15	59	a	Guernsey	15	59
Birmingham	16	61	a	Inverness	14	57
Bristol	17	63	a	Jersey	17	63
Cardiff	17	63	a	London	16	61
Cornwall	16	61	a	Manchester	17	63
Edinburgh	16	61	a	Newcastle	17	63
Glasgow	15	59	r	Nottingham	15	59

London 8.04 pm to 6.02 am
Bristol 8.14 pm to 6.12 am
Edinburgh 8.27 pm to 6.04 am
Manchester 8.17 pm to 6.06 am
Penzance 8.23 pm to 6.27 am

 Sun rises: 8.01 am Sun sets: 8.04 pm
Moon rises: 1.00 am Moon sets: 5.44 pm
New Moon August 28

TODAY	AM	MT	PM	H
London Bridge	10.26	5.7	11.04	5.7
Swansea	10.32	5.7	11.07	5.7
Wolverhampton	9.34	10.0	11.20	10.4
Sheffield	7.58	3.0	8.27	3.3
Cardiff	3.19	8.4	2.59	9.0
Dewonport	2.08	4.2	3.62	4.9
Swansea	7.57	5.3	10.33	5.3
Falmouth	1.26	4.0	2.22	4.0
Walsingham	0.19	3.9	0.53	4.0
Harwich	0.24	3.3	0.90	3.3
Widemouth	7.81	4.5	8.07	4.5
Widemouth	3.01	5.8	3.16	7.3
Widemouth	2.95	7.0	3.63	7.0
King's Lynn	9.05	4.9	3.83	5.0
Widemouth	11.43	4.5	—	—

Time in months

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY				
Liverpool	8.12	7.6	6.49	7.9
Lowestoft	8.17	2.1	6.58	2.1
Margate	8.48	0	9.25	4.1
Nottingham	2.48	5.2	3.32	5.5
Nottingham Haven	1.48	4.3	2.29	3.1
Newquay				
Oban	3.36	3.0	3.47	3.1
Penzance	1.22	4.2	2.09	2.9
Portland	3.18	1.4	3.54	1.6
Portsmouth	8.06	3.9	8.36	4.8
Southampton	8.03	4.9	8.44	5.1
Southend	8.14	3.6	8.26	3.9
Swansea	2.56	7.2	3.27	7.5
Tees	12.25	4.3	12.5	4.3
Tilbury-on-Weir	8.21	3.4	9.05	3.6

W 10c - 2.20PM

Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 071-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate,
Killing Road, Prescott, Merseyside, L34 9HY, telephone 051-546 2000. Monday, August 24, 1992
registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Unbundling could benefit industry in South Africa

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE end of apartheid and the resumption of democracy is set to shake South African industry to its foundations. The behemoths that dominate corporate life are finding themselves so interlocked after 30 years of isolation that they are absurdly simple to subject to political control.

A government dominated by the African National Congress (ANC) Communist party alliance would scarcely need to nationalise anything to bend industry to its will.

While political upheaval is proving a disincentive to foreign investment, industrialists

are beginning to realise that the investment cash they say is so urgently needed for expansion is available under their own mattresses.

The conglomerates, five of which account for more than three quarters of the Johannesburg stock exchange's market capitalisation, are so controlled by interlocking and pyramidal share holdings that three government appointed trustees on the board of, say, the Sanlam insurance company, and three on the board of SA Mutual, would subject a huge proportion of South African industry to govern-

ment control. But of more urgent interest is the benefit to be obtained by unbundling the complicated shareholding structure and launching the individual industries to prosper on their own.

The unbundling proposal was thrust last week into the public eye by an article by Sir Alan Walters and George Guise, two former advisers to Margaret Thatcher, whose economic successes are much admired in South Africa. They make a case for unbundling that will not readily appeal to Johannesburg's industrialists. Let in the takeover kings such as Lord Hanson or White or Sir James Goldsmith, they say, and the stripping operation would mobilise resources, free undervalued assets, release a new generation of entrepreneurs and create jobs.

The present structure of South African business feathers the board rooms, entrenches obsolescence and leads to inefficiency, they say, a situation that is endorsed by the protectionist, socialist government that has been in power for so long.

The National Party dislikes buccaneers, and prefers industrial managers to be amenable to the habits of bureaucrats.

The article's proposals were endorsed by an editorial in *Business Day*, which urged that political change be paralleled by greater industrial and shareholder democracy.

Even this argument is not likely to persuade the business chiefs to change their comfortable existence. Nevertheless, at least Gencor, the country's second largest mining and industrial group, is close to a decision to unbundle itself.

Brian Gilbertson, Gencor's new chairman, said: "Primary unbundling is a distinct possibility, and we are close to a decision in principle." The unbundling would have off Gencor's paper and pulp manufacturer and Genbel, its financial arm, and leave the gold, platinum and coal mines as its central business. A Gencor executive said there were distinct commercial advantages in the unbundling.

Winning hand for GEC cards



Deals on the cards: John Baker says cities abroad are interested in the system

GEC Card Technology, the General Electric Company subsidiary, has landed what it says is the biggest single order so far for a new generation of smart cards it makes at Walsall in the West Midlands (Derek Harris writes).

In a £10 million deal with Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, the smart cards will be used for payments on buses, the Metrolink and at suburban rail stations. Cards, encoded to a given monetary value, will be bought from outlets such as corner shops. Talks now going on could lead to the

system being used elsewhere in Britain. John Baker, managing director of GEC Card Technology, said: "We have a string of cities abroad looking into possibly using the system. It could bring £400 million worth of business in the next three years or so."

Various uses are foreseen for the cards, different from earlier versions which use microchips with exposed contact pins. The GEC smart cards have no exterior contacts. They rely on radio waves and can be wiped across a "reading" device while still in a wallet or purse.

Pru to back Ewart over attack from Monarch

PRUDENTIAL Assurance, the largest institutional shareholder in Ewart, the Belfast-based property company, is to support the incumbent board at next week's extraordinary meeting called by Monarch Properties, the Dublin company. Monarch, which has a 29 per cent stake in Ewart against the Pru's near 6 per cent, is a private company run by Philip Monahan, who wants Ewart shareholders to help oust four members of the current board and replace them with two new directors, including Monarch's development director. Mr Monahan is already on the Ewart board.

Ewart has accused Mr Monahan of trying to seize control without making a full bid. In a letter yesterday urging shareholders to vote against the proposals, Derek Tughan, Ewart's chairman, said a circular from Monarch was "riddled with inconsistencies and unsubstantiated claims".

Cowie bid backed

DAVID Matthews has reiterated his support for T Cowie's £30 million bid for Henlys, the motor trader and coach manufacturer. Mr Matthews, who was chairman and chief executive of Henlys until last November, retains a 7 per cent stake in Henlys, opposed the original takeover terms, but has since come out in support of the bid that closes next Tuesday. Yesterday, Mr Matthews said that Henlys was a "shrewd acquisition" for Cowie. He said that as this was recognised, the Cowie share price would recover, enhancing returns to those who accept Cowie's share offer of seven new Cowie shares for every ten Henlys shares or the partial cash alternative.

Sale Tilney debt offer

SALE Tilney, the trading and insurance group, has announced proposals to pay debts incurred by Monument Marine and General Insurance, its Isle of Man-based underwriting subsidiary declared insolvent in June 1991. Sale has agreed to make two payments of £300,000 each provided it makes pre-tax profits of £2 million and £3 million in any one year. The group made a pre-tax loss of £4.45 million in the year to November 29 against a £9.62 million loss previously.

BHP sticks with Foster's

THE Broken Hill Pty Co sees no exit from Foster's Brewing Group for some time, John Prescott, BHP managing director, said. The preferred option for BHP, which last week offered to buy 32.2 per cent of Foster's held by International Brewing Holdings, was for a higher bidder to emerge. IBH owes BHP A\$1 billion in convertible shares and interest.

Namibia's stock exchange ready

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

OUT of Africa... a new stock exchange is born.

The Namibian Stock Exchange, based in Windhoek, is likely to start life sometime in October, initially trading only a handful of listed securities but aspiring to attract an increasing number of neighbouring South African, and possibly British, companies.

The idea of a Namibian exchange was mooted in 1990, since when an executive committee has drawn up a framework for operations and registration.

Various incentives are proposed. One is that there will be no marketable securities tax (MST) — compared with the 1 per cent MST that governs dealings on the Johannesburg stock exchange in South Africa. Another is that withholding tax on dividends will be 10 per cent for South African investors and 5 per cent for other foreign investors.

South Africa's withholding tax that applies to foreign investors is currently 15 per cent.

Initially, companies with direct Namibian connections are expected to be traded, including Gold Fields Namibia, a subsidiary of Gold Fields

of South Africa and an independent mining house in Namibia; Nicus, a furniture retailer; and two fishing-related companies, Namsea and Namfish.

Two obvious contenders for an eventual Namibian government are De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM) — when talks between De Beers and the Namibian government concerning a range of matters related to CDM have been finalised — and Rossing, the uranium operation in which the British-based RTZ Group holds a 46.5 per cent interest.

There are several other shareholders in Rossing, including South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation and Gencor. The Namibian government is also an equity holder in Rossing, so unless other shareholders were willing sellers of Rossing shares, the lead for a listing of Rossing on the Namibian exchange would have to come from the government.

The exchange's listing conditions require that a minimum 20 per cent of issued shares be in public hands, and a minimum 1 million shares should be in issue.

REPORTING THIS WEEK

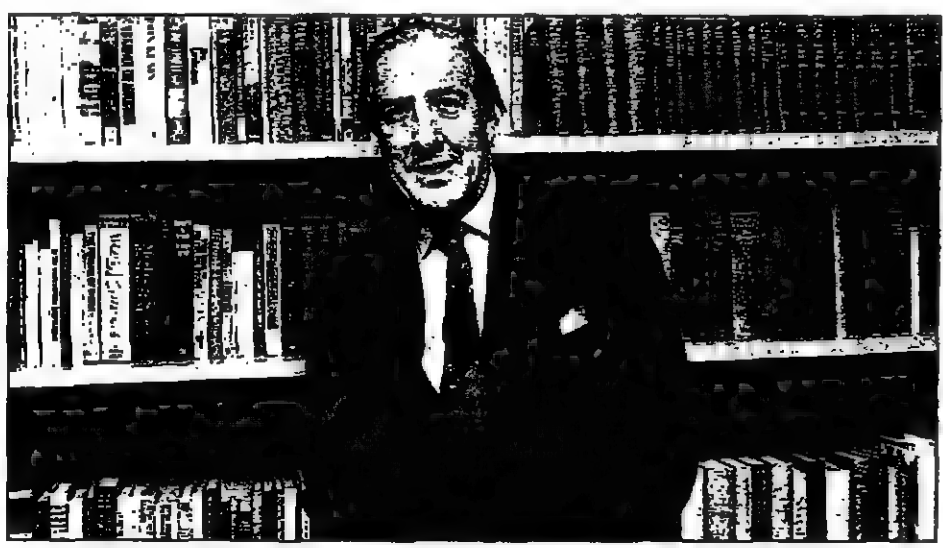
Lower interest should aid WH Smith

SOLID progress at most of its existing businesses, the disposal of loss-making operations and a sharp decline in interest charges will help full-year profits to advance at WH Smith, the retailing group chaired by Sir Simon Hornby. Britain's biggest bookseller, which also controls the Waterstone's chain of bookshops, should, on Wednesday, report pre-tax profits of £110 million, against £89 million last time, according to Nick Bubb at Morgan Stanley, the American securities house. Market forecasts range from £110 million to £116 million. Mr Bubb expects earnings per share of 28.1p (28.2p) and a dividend of 13.1p (12.5p) a share.

Lower interest payments, as a result of last year's £148 million rights issue, will boost profits. Interest costs should be reduced by nearly £25 million to about £3 million. In addition, borrowings will benefit from the elimination of the loss-making television and travel businesses.

However, much of the damage to trading profits will have been done by Do It All, the group's joint venture with Boots, which is expected to suffer a loss of about £2 million, against a £10 million profit last time, with lower sales and margins and a squeeze on the company's share of the do-it-yourself market.

Most of the DIY chains have been involved in a fierce battle, with widespread de-stocking and expensive advertising campaigns, in an attempt to grab as big a slice as possible of an intensely competitive market ravaged by depressed consumer spending



Interest cut: Sir Simon Hornby, of WH Smith, who should report higher profits

and reduced demand as a result of the poor housing market.

Smith's retail operations should have done fairly well, with strong second-half performance, although the Our Price operation is likely to feel the effects of a weaker music market.

However, there was some concern among book and magazine retailers last week after last Wednesday's news of a fresh Monopoly and Mergers Commission investigation into the supply and distribution of newspapers following the referral by the Office of Fair Trading.

TODAY

Interim: EFT Group, Epwim Group, Lionheart, Molyneux Holdings, Norder Group, TR High Income Trust, Finance Resources Engineering, PHH Corp.

Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (June); balance of

payments, current account and overseas trade figures (July).

TOMORROW

The tougher price control formula will restrict income at British Gas, the gas supplier and explorer headed by Robert Evans, chairman, and Cedric Brown, the newly appointed chief executive.

British Gas, which is involved in an enquiry by the MMC into its UK gas business after a long-running battle with Ofgas, the industry regulator, is expected to report an historic cost net loss of £35 million for the second quarter, according to Paul Spedding at Kleinwort Benson.

There is no real comparison for last time as a result of the company's change of year end to December. Market forecasts range from net losses of £35 million to £140 million. Kleinwort predicts an interim dividend of 6.5p a share.

The recession on both sides of the Atlantic is expected to push Bridon, the wire and rope manufacturer based in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, to an interim pre-tax loss of about £1 million, against a profit of £100,000 last time, according to UBS Phillips & Drew.

The company is unlikely to pay an interim dividend, against 2.5p last time.

Grasby, the former Cambridge Electronic Industries instruments and controls group, is expected to report a

slip in first-half pre-tax profits to about £4.5 million, against £5.1 million last time. A maintained interim dividend of 3.3p is expected.

Interim: Aldermore AS, Bank of Nova Scotia, Boustead, Bridon, British Gas, Fidelity Accumulating Money Fund, Grasby, Kerry Group, Messy Docks and Harbour Company, Murray International Trust, Topdanmark AS, Finance: TR European Growth Trust.

WEDNESDAY

Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance group, continues the composite insurance companies' interim reporting season. The housing debate has further eroded insurers' profits, with fears that it could be the turn of building house prices and the effects of recession to wreak more havoc after years of storms and other disasters.

However, City analysts will be hoping for some further signs of recovery from the much battered sector after slightly better than expected results from the other insurers.

David Nisbet, at County NatWest WoodMac, expects first-half pre-tax losses to be trimmed to £60 million, against last time's £87.9 million. Market forecasts range from losses of £42 million to £80 million. An interim dividend of 2.5p (4.4p) a share is predicted, although a maintained total dividend of 7p a share is expected for the full year.

The improvement in first-half results will be helped by

reduced underwriting losses. County expects underwriting losses to fall to about £201 million for the half year, against £249 million last time. Interim: Amicable Smelter Enterprises Trust, Asset AS, Daniels (S) Franchise Hotels, Guardian Royal Exchange, Latin American Investment Trust, Finance: Smith (WH) Group.

Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (July); construction — new orders (June — provisional).

THURSDAY

Despite the severity of the British recession affecting many in the engineering sector, Weir Group, the Scottish valve and pump manufacturer, should buck the trend with higher first-half profits. Pre-tax profits are expected to advance to £18 million from £15 million last time, with an interim dividend of 3.7p (3.1p) predicted.

Cattle's (Holdings), the consumer credit company, should report first-half pre-tax profits ahead of £4.2 million (£3.9 million). A maintained interim dividend of 1.5p is likely.

The continued depressed state of the housing market will result in more losses at Hambro Countrywide, the estate agency and insurance group. The company is likely to see interim losses trimmed to £3 million, against £4.2 million last time. Again, no interim dividend is expected.

Net income at Monument Oil and Gas is expected to fall to £1.5 million at the interim stage, compared with £3.6 million last time, according to County NatWest.

Interim: British Assets Trust (third quarter), Cattle's (Holdings), Church & Co, Hambro Countrywide, Jones (P) & Sons, Mayflower Corporation, Monument Oil and Gas, Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, Scottish Investment Trust (nine months), Weir Group, Finance: County Smelter Enterprises Trust, Murray International Trust, Topdanmark AS, Finance: TR European Growth Trust.

Economic statistics: Energy trends (June); new vehicle registrations (July).

FRIDAY

Interim: Fife Income, Scottish Healthcare Trust, Finance: Minerals Cils and Resources Share Fund. Economic statistics: CBI monthly trends enquiry (August).

PHILIP PANGALOS

Bundesbank is likely to ease rates sooner than expected

Criticism of the UK Treasury has been frequent and loud in the past few months. Most of it has been misplaced and unfair.

The policy-makers' predicament is well known. The UK has had to endure a long recession, from which it might now be emerging. A feature of this recession has been the high level of personal indebtedness built up in the 1980s, which in turn was largely secured on property. Falling property prices, along with rising unemployment, have ensured that an increasing proportion of real income gains have been directed towards debt repayment. Historically high real interest rates are inappropriate and magnify the problem.

This situation, though painful and serious, is arguably not the government's fault. Policy options are limited. Neither currency nor fiscal constraints can be relaxed. Development within the ERM would almost certainly be ineffective, leaving the ERM would be a desperate move. Fiscal measures are possible but will not address the heart of the problem: high rates and debt. A PSBR projection of 5.5 per cent of GDP for 1993 also excludes extensive use of this option.

Criticism of the UK Treasury should be directed in a different direction, at a target that is likely to provide salva-

tion much more quickly than expected — the Bundesbank. The bank is pursuing a dual policy: it is targeting an unstable M3 and attempting to unite two widely divergent economies with minimal price pressures. It is wrong, however, to target monetary growth as if there had been no change in Germany. There has been a necessary increase in demand for money, which requires greater flexibility on the part of the Bundesbank.

This change in the economic cycle in west Germany is being underestimated by the bank. Monetary trends are obscuring the real economic indicators. It is probable that the current policy regime will lead to over-kill. The worst that could happen is that the Bundesbank dogmatically waits for M3 to re-enter the target range; in that case, there might be no easing until mid-1993 at the earliest.

The policy exposes the whole German economy — and, by extension, the other EC economies — to serious risks. If the Bundesbank persists, it could discredit itself as a model central bank. Eventually, wiser heads in the Bundesbank council are likely to prevail, initiating a much faster monetary easing than is currently being discounted by bond markets.

Our investment strategy for

gilts and short sterling is therefore as follows: the short end of the market in general, and short sterling in particular, are cheap. The December short sterling contract is currently discounting a rate rise, having until recently expected a cut. An interest rate cut by the year-end is still quite possible.

The prospect of a volte-face by the Bundesbank also gives an opportunity for substantial yield declines at the short end of the gilt market, where the 12 per cent stock currently yields 9.75 per cent.

The longer end of the market is attractive on this interest rate view and on purely economic grounds; the auction of the 2017 stock should be viewed against this background.

The government's stance has been successful in changing inflation expectations. This is highlighted by the labour market, which has seen sharp falls in both settlements and earnings. This trend will not be reversed; on the contrary, it will be reinforced by expectations of inflation falling to 3 per cent in 1993. In summary, the yield curve is expected to flatten but total returns should be higher towards the longer end of the market.

SANJAY JOSHI
Chief bond economist,
Daiwa Europe.

AFTER the unrelenting effect on government securities of sterling's weakness at the end of last week, bond dealers will want the pound to stay above DM2.80.

Any breach of this level is expected to continue to unsettle stocks at the short end. A threat of an interest rate rise

would be likely to affect shorter-dated securities most.

Dealers will also pay close attention to today's current account and trade balance figures. The week, however, will be dominated by Wednesday's gilt auction.

The Bank of England confirmed it will issue £2.5 billion

of ultra-long stock comprising Treasury 8½ per cent 2017A, which will trade separately from the existing stock. The auction is mainly intended for domestic investors. A shortfall in demand would damage sentiment and could raise fears about the government's ability to fund the PSBR.

Stocks (continued)

Stock	Change	Price	Yield	Div
1,200 Bank 1994-1995	100p	13.40	10.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 1995-1996	100p	13.10	9.70	1.00
1,200 Bank 1996-1997	100p	12.80	9.40	1.00
1,200 Bank 1997-1998	100p	12.50	9.10	1.00
1,200 Bank 1998-1999	100p	12.20	8.80	1.00
1,200 Bank 1999-2000	100p	11.90	8.50	1.00
1,200 Bank 2000-2001	100p	11.60	8.20	1.00
1,200 Bank 2001-2002	100p	11.30	7.90	1.00
1,200 Bank 2002-2003	100p	11.00	7.60	1.00
1,200 Bank 2003-2004	100p	10.70	7.30	1.00
1,200 Bank 2004-2005	100p	10.40	7.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2005-2006	100p	10.10	6.70	1.00
1,200 Bank 2006-2007	100p	9.80	6.40	1.00
1,200 Bank 2007-2008	100p	9.50	6.10	1.00
1,200 Bank 2008-2009	100p	9.20	5.80	1.00
1,200 Bank 2009-2010	100p	8.90	5.50	1.00
1,200 Bank 2010-2011	100p	8.60	5.20	1.00
1,200 Bank 2011-2012	100p	8.30	4.90	1.00
1,200 Bank 2012-2013	100p	8.00	4.60	1.00
1,200 Bank 2013-2014	100p	7.70	4.30	1.00
1,200 Bank 2014-2015	100p	7.40	4.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2015-2016	100p	7.10	3.70	1.00
1,200 Bank 2016-2017	100p	6.80	3.40	1.00
1,200 Bank 2017-2018	100p	6.50	3.10	1.00
1,200 Bank 2018-2019	100p	6.20	2.80	1.00
1,200 Bank 2019-2020	100p	5.90	2.50	1.00
1,200 Bank 2020-2021	100p	5.60	2.20	1.00
1,200 Bank 2021-2022	100p	5.30	1.90	1.00
1,200 Bank 2022-2023	100p	5.00	1.60	1.00
1,200 Bank 2023-2024	100p	4.70	1.30	1.00
1,200 Bank 2024-2025	100p	4.40	1.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2025-2026	100p	4.10	0.70	1.00
1,200 Bank 2026-2027	100p	3.80	0.40	1.00
1,200 Bank 2027-2028	100p	3.50	0.10	1.00
1,200 Bank 2028-2029	100p	3.20	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2029-2030	100p	2.90	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2030-2031	100p	2.60	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2031-2032	100p	2.30	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2032-2033	100p	2.00	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2033-2034	100p	1.70	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2034-2035	100p	1.40	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2035-2036	100p	1.10	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2036-2037	100p	0.80	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2037-2038	100p	0.50	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2038-2039	100p	0.20	0.00	1.00
1,200 Bank 2039-2040	100p	0.00	0.00	1.00

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS \$ to 15 y			
4,600	Trans 9/4 1997	97p	
830	Bank 1/9 1997	120p	
1,800	Trans 6/4 1997-98	91p	
3,200	Bank 9/4 1998	101p	
3,000	Bank 1/4 1998	111p	
925	Trans 12/4 1998	126p	
1,650	Trans 9/4 1999	109p	
1,700	Conv 10/4 1999	104p	
1,252	Trans 10/4 1999	102p	
3,000	Bank 12/4 1999	113p	
4,158	Conv 9/4 2000	99p	
3,171	Trans 1/4 2000	116p	
4,261	Trans 10/4 2000	102p	
900	Trans 1/4 1999-01	110p	

ECONOMIC VIEW

Way out of the recession lies with the government, not in the stars

Anatole Kalesky says that there is an alternative to Treasury inaction and presents a dozen ways in which policy can be improved

Learn from the mistakes of 1987

Foreign exchange markets have an infuriating ability to nag away at international economic imbalances that politicians have failed to resolve and therefore prefer to play down. An issue may be talked about endlessly at economic summits, lesser meetings of the Group of Seven or by EC leaders, only to emerge in some ambiguously soothing formula in a communiqué that implies action but produces none. Only when the nagging of the currency markets produces a runaway slide in exchange rates are politicians forced to act.

This process was played out most notoriously in 1987, when America's twin deficits were the irritant. Governments failed to act even when the currency markets showed the need. That led directly to the October world stock market crash. Only then could governments bring themselves to grasp nettles and co-ordinate policies so that they did not undermine each other, stretching economic relationships to breaking point. Mechanisms set up after that episode were to prevent a repeat performance by pressing action, whether through central bank intervention or policy adjustment, before the markets snapped.

They have often succeeded. This summer they have failed, perhaps lulled by the initial success of a dollar support operation last month. On Friday, central banks spent billions to reverse the dollar's slide against the mark, only to set off a worse run. Their costly humiliation has the look of a final warning. Unless it is heeded, a repeat of 1987 cannot be ruled out. The markets are signaling that policy adjustments need to be made. The tension is between German and American interest rates and this time the Germans are in the hot seat. Via the ERM, they are making life even hotter for John Major, whose bluff is inconveniently being called.

The dollar rose 27 per cent against the mark over five months last year and has since fallen all the way back and more, dropping 15 per cent over four months to its Friday close of DM1.4285. Both America and Germany have had to rely too heavily on monetary measures, respectively to beat recession and to cope with unification costs and share them round Europe. The eventual 6 per cent interest rate gap looked temporary until last week, when stubborn German monetary growth made that gap more likely to widen than to shrink. Marks became more valuable as a short-term financial holding.

Having had their wallets severely burned, central banks will be inclined to let the market find its own level. That would not solve the imbalance destroying jobs in ERM economies and could force Britain to raise interest rates. Nor would an ERM realignment resolve tensions to trade flows and to dollar-priced commodities caused by an excessively low dollar.

Both the Group of Seven and the EC need to tell the German government and its haughty independent Bundesbank that one or other must adjust. The federal government must cut spending or raise taxes, or the Bundesbank should view inflationary money growth more permissively. This will not be easy. German political weakness caused the imbalance. The Bundesbank rejects responsibility towards EC partners, appearing to court French rejection of Maastricht, for fear that it might bring political compromise to money control.

Britain, holding the EC chair, has the incentive to push hard. Friday's binge could be claimed as indirect support for sterling as it fell through the ERM divergence threshold. With sterling already within 1 per cent of its limit against the mark, things could really become serious this week. If so, the Bank of England could afford to play for time until the French referendum and throw in the reserves, confident that it should make a lot of money if the parity is sacrosanct. Given the risk of a French *non*, the vicious credibility circle could still dictate a rate rise.

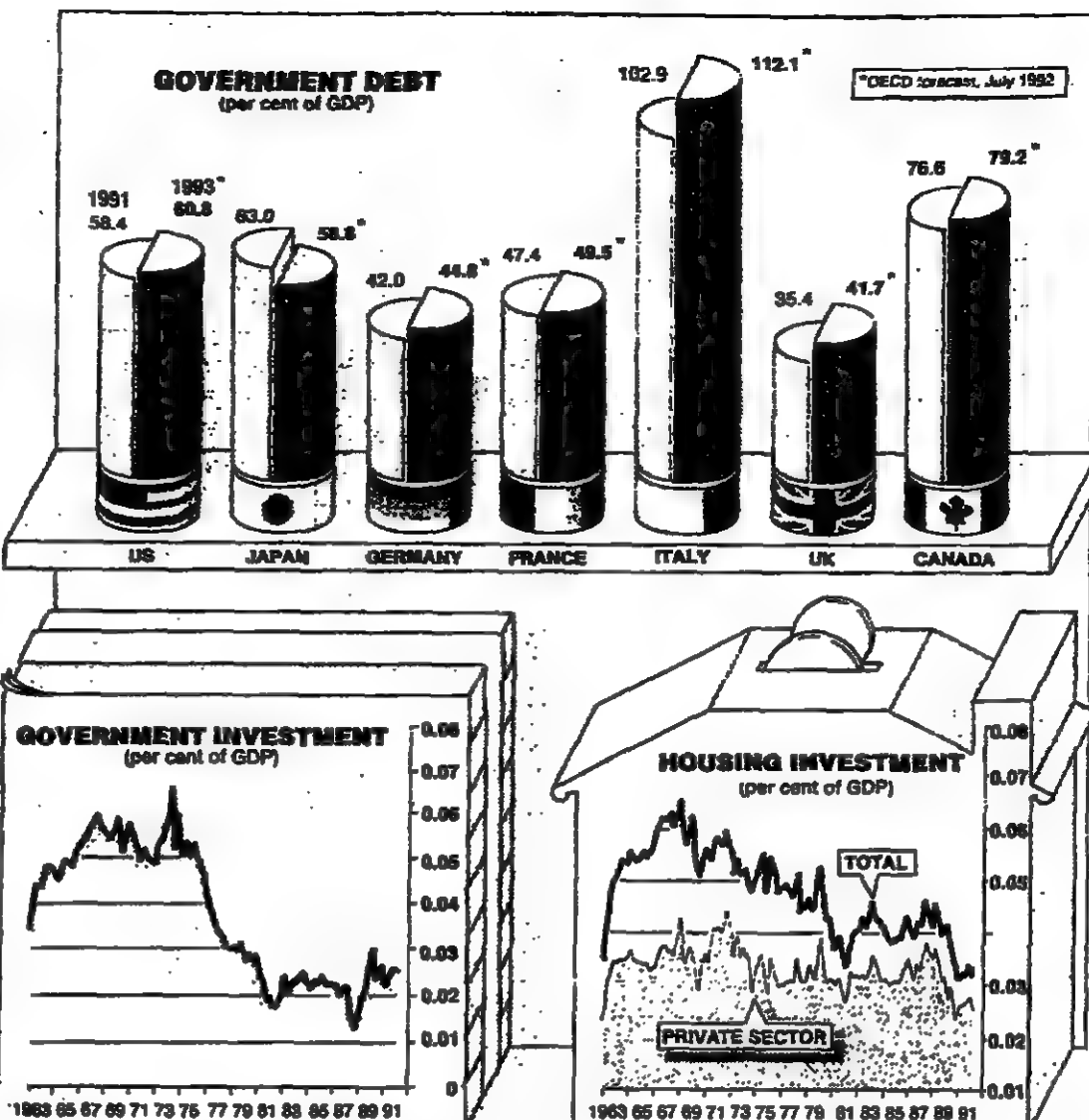
Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism has reached its *reductio ad absurdum*. Last week, the dollar collapsed against the mark. So Britain may be forced to raise interest rates. Why? Because inflation is too high in Germany, growth is too low in America and the French seem fed up with their socialist leaders.

What has all this to do with businessmen and homeowners in Britain? Nothing, except that they now face ruin because John Major has chosen to subordinate British economic policy to such random happenings abroad.

The greatest service Mr Major could now do for his country would be to admit that he is humanly fallible and made a mistake in joining the ERM. Britain's main economic problems could be solved overnight, not by devaluing or "re-aligning", but by cutting interest rates to 6 or 7 per cent, and letting the pound find its own level in the markets. We all know, however, that Mr Major is all too fallibly human and he will not take Britain out. Does this imply, then, that Britain is helplessly condemned to endless recession? The answer is clearly no. Action can still be taken to create an adequate economic recovery, despite ludicrously high interest rates and the strait-jacket of the ERM.

The rest of this article will be a list of options, in telegraphic style. What matters is the general message: there is no need for the defeatism and paralysis that has seized the government, the business community and the public. My policy proposals are divided into four broad groups:

- 1 Public sector investment and spending. Bringing forward investment would be the surest, quickest and most powerful way to stimulate the economy. It would actually take advantage of the exchange-rate constraint. Because British interest rates are now set in Germany, higher public spending would not "crowd out" private investment and spending, at least in the next year or two. Beyond that, emergency investment programmes should be designed to go into reverse and reduce public spending from 1995 onwards. Bringing forward public spending that would otherwise take place at the peak of the economic cycle, would improve the long-run outlook for inflation, cut the cost of public sector projects, limit the increase in national debt and probably help to reduce interest rates by bolstering confidence in sterling. As for the size of the fiscal package, look at Japan. The anti-recession public works programme, due to be unveiled this week, is now rumoured to be worth ¥10 trillion or £40 billion. In relation to Britain's GDP, a similar package here might bring forward £10 billion to £15 billion of investment. Spread over two years, this would directly add almost 1 per cent to GDP annually, equivalent to saving 500,000 jobs, without even considering the standard Keynesian multiplier effects. What could a fiscal package consist of?



First, obviously school, hospital, road and prison repairs should be brought forward, council and housing association construction increased and large transport projects, such as the Channel Tunnel link should be approved. Every government department should be expected to contribute a fast-disbursing one-off boost to public spending. The Treasury habitually asks of every investment programme, "why do it now, not later?" This year, they should be made to ask instead: "Why do it later if you could do it now?" Examples might include: trebling vehicle purchases by the police, health authorities, local councils and defence ministry in the next 12 months. Public sector car purchases in the following three years would be cut by two-thirds; environmental initiatives, for example, a one-year grant for catalytic converters, paid for by higher taxes on leaded petrol from 1994-5; accelerating the schedule to modernise the London tube system; and why not double the funds for new acquisitions by art galleries, museums and English Heritage, offering this by 50 per cent cuts in the following two years?

2 Support the housing market. The purpose of any support should be to boost turnover, not prices, as well as to encourage the rental sector and improve the tax structure.

How could this be done? First, increase mortgage tax relief to £60,000 for all purchases in the next 12 months. Assuming 1.5 million housing transactions, the maximum annual cost would be £1.1 billion. This could be recouped by cutting the tax relief limit for existing mortgages to £25,000. From 1994-5 onwards, the tax relief limit would be cut by a further £5,000 each year. As a result, all tax relief on existing mortgages would be eliminated by 1998, but anyone who bought a house this year would enjoy some subsidy for a further seven years. This reform would offer a huge stimulus to the market in the next 12 months, yet save the Exchequer £6 billion annually by the end of the decade.

Second, offer landlords the same tax relief as owner-occupiers and make rental income tax exempt. This idea, suggested by the Halifax Building Society, would put rental and owner-occupied housing on the same fiscal footing. With tax relief set temporarily at £50,000, rental housing investment would boom.

Third, require building societies to change their practices as a quid pro quo for this help. An endowment mortgage costs 15 per cent more than a repayment one, since most endowment holders surrender their policies in the first few years. Yet 75 per cent of new borrowers take out endowments. If mortgage lending was entirely conducted through repayments, house prices could rise by 15 per cent without increasing most people's housing costs. In the long run, moving to repayment from endowment could compensate most borrowers for the abolition of tax relief. Building societies could be required to repair and rent out repossessed houses rather than sell them. If

lenders refused to co-operate with these reforms, the doubling of Miras limits could be confined to repayment mortgages only.

3 Encourage personal consumption. An economic slump is not the time to promote savings, even though higher savings will be required in the long run to narrow the current account deficit. Tessa and personal equity plans could be abolished, but this might perversely encourage more saving to beat the deadline. A better approach, which would also improve the structure and fairness of the tax system would be first to remove all tax penalties on money withdrawn from Tessa. Tessa should become a tax-free savings allowance of £5,000 per head, which people can dip into whenever they wish. Money withdrawn from Peps should also be eligible for tax relief, again if it is put back into equities later.

Second, accumulate the annual limits on Peps contributions. Instead of encouraging people to put £6,000 a year into a Peps to build up maximum tax-exempt savings, the unused amount of each year's limit should be rolled forward. Someone who contributed only £1,000 to a Peps this year could pay in an extra £5,000 in any future year. The Peps scheme would turn into a fixed tax-free allowance available equally to everyone, regardless of whether they contributed annually or in occasional lump sums.

4 Segmenting financial markets to help consumers and small businesses live with ERM-determined high interest rates. First, the Treasury should stop competing for personal savings, thereby pushing up mortgage rates. Interest rates on National Savings should be drastically cut to encourage net outflows of, say, £500 million a month from National Savings. The government should raise the corresponding money in wholesale markets instead, by selling Treasury Bills and index-linked gilts.

Second, if ERM membership is to coexist with entrepreneurship, more radical measures may be required to finance small businesses. Small business loans could be made tax-deductible at source, in the same way as mortgages. Loss-making businesses that do not benefit from tax relief would then have their payments reduced by a quarter. In the longer term, the government will probably have to create a special agency to underwrite small business loans.

The Chancellor and prime minister claim that "there is no alternative" to whatever the Treasury happens to feel like doing. Above are a dozen rebuttals. There are, of course, hundreds of other ideas, many presumably better than those listed here. But this is not the time to argue about perfect policy prescriptions. It is a time for action. The recession can be ended, within the ERM or outside it. Britain does not have to endure another year of job losses, bankruptcies and repossessions. If the recession continues, the responsibility should be clear — the fault lies in our government, not in our stars.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hann's off to school

AFTER 13 years in the City — eight of them with Cazenove — Rosie Hann, a specialist in Far Eastern equities, has decided to pursue an alternative career. Hann, 33, a mother of three and experienced marathon runner, resigned from WI Carr at the end of last week, and will depart on Thursday. At the end of next month, she will begin a year's course at the University of Hertfordshire — formerly Hatfield Polytechnic — studying for a graduate certificate of education in mathematics, to teach secondary schoolchildren. Hann, an economist and statistics graduate from Southampton University, says she has chosen that career so she can spend more time with her children. Giles, six, Catherine, three, and Jack, one. "I also think the market is going to be dull for a year," she adds. Does that mean she might then return? "Who knows?"



tal and absolutely extraordinary," says Sebastian, whose father, Jeremy, ex-Country, Small, Lyons & Davis, a firm specialising in future funds. One witty observer commented: "Mam's obviously the word."

Well laced

THE glitzy reputation of the county of Essex has been seriously dented after out-of-hours research conducted by three stockbrokers. Martin Smith, Chris Matthews and David Small, all employed on Williams de Bro's foreign desk, decided radical action was called for after they were caught up in the scam during last Thursday night's computer crash. Unable to get home to West London, and fortified by a few after-work drinks, they went to Liverpool Street station instead and jumped on a Colchester train with the intention of climbing the night away. Unable to locate a nightclub, however, they returned to Liverpool Street, making ample use of the on-board bar. The tale does not end there. Matthews, overcome with fatigue, fell asleep on the return train and had his shoelaces tied together. Unfortunately, he only discovered this debilitating fact as he attempted to disembark.

Mam's the word

LAST week's City Diary report about the surf of weddings taking place among the fund managers at Family Assurance, the largest friendly society in Britain, has brought to light another romantic tale. One of the individuals mentioned, Henrietta Lyon, from Family, now on honeymoon with Mark Bradshaw, a fund manager with Mercury Asset Management, has clearly set a trend. Her brother, Sebastian, a fund manager with Marine and General Mutual, will, in October, wed Flora Nicholson, who starts work as a fund manager in three weeks at MAM. "It's purely coincident."

Rhino run

NO fewer than nine City workers responded to an appeal in the City Diary for sponsored runners, able to guarantee a minimum of £3,000, to take part in the New York Marathon on November 1 in aid of the Save the Rhino charity. In return for guaranteed

sponsorship, the runners — who, so far, include Gary Chuter and John Taylor, fund managers from Allied Dunbar, Rupert Paine, from Hoare Govett, and Tom Kenyan-Slaney, an investment manager with LET — are being given free flights and accommodation at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, overlooking Central Park. "We are still looking for another four runners," Rupert Younger, PR man from Brunswick, says. "I have even now been persuaded to run myself and I have only ever run a half marathon before."

Nomura ripples

JOHN Tyce, long the leading banking analyst in the City, is no longer head of research at Nomura. Tyce, a popular and respected figure in City circles, has effectively been replaced in the role by Basil Postan, after a restructuring of the equities division at the Japanese firm. Postan, previously head of UK and European equity sales and trading, has now assumed responsibility for equity research too. Nomura denies this is effectively demotion for Tyce. A spokesman says: "John remains an associate director and head of our banking team. He has not been demoted, someone else has been put in overall charge." The spokesman also denied that the restructuring had anything to do with Far Eastern embarrassment caused by the cancellation of Guinness Peat Aviation's flotation, for which Nomura had been the global co-ordinator.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Making a positive market out of the recession

From Mr John Salkeld
Sir, It seems to me that we might benefit if economists, and others, were to stop using the word "recession" with its negative overtones. Quite a few other words such as "slump", "depression" etc could, also, usefully be avoided.

What we have at any one time are "markets". Thus the market that we have, currently, is different from the market that existed four years ago, and, very likely, will be different from the market that will exist in four years' time.

The current market brings with it many unique opportunities. There are, for instance,

massive amounts of cheap homes and land available, offering a remarkable opportunity to solve the housing crisis once and for all. Mostly what seems to be needed is the ability to put together empty homes and the homeless.

A good deal of the empty office space in central London has no market as offices and should never be back to the users that it often replaced: cheap workrooms, storage, housing. This would help to bring life back to many dead areas.

Hugely expensive public projects, such as the Jubilee Line, should be abandoned since they are not appropriate in the current market. Let the

London School of Economics move to Canary Wharf if it is so desperate for a new megahome.

The population at large is telling the government what it wants. It is saving more. There is better service in the shops. Schools and others have stopped sending out endless letters begging for funds for yet another sports or drama complex.

In other words there need be no such thing as a recession. Simply another sort of market.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SALKELD,
Whitehall Court, SW1.

Review of tax relief on mortgage interest needed to bring more choice

From Mr Harold Burnham
Sir, It is inevitable that, in times of high interest rates, taxpayers with heavy mortgages will suffer. The government should resist appeals to tinker with the situation, for example by increasing the limit from £30,000 to £50,000, and instead undertake a radical review of its nature.

Logically, all interest payable is negative income and should qualify for tax relief. When the government of the day abandoned this principle it lacked the courage to dis-

qualify mortgage interest so that tax relief thereon now survives, within limits, as an illogical monument to the previous regime.

However, viewed as an extension of tax relief under another heading, it could be justified and could, at the same time, allow more room for choice on the part of the taxpayer. Most buyers of houses arrange for their mortgages — or, at least, the last in a series — to be continuous with their expected working life.

They can then live "rent-

free" during their retirement and the periodical payments made to a building society are, in effect, part of their pension contributions.

Such contributions, within certain limits in the case of private pension schemes, attract tax relief. The present limits would have to be raised, to compensate for the abolition of tax relief on mortgage interest, and the calculation would need to take account of the fact that the beneficial occupation of the building after retirement would not be taxed — unless Schedule A were re-introduced.

This tax structure would be coherent; it would be to some extent self-indexing, because, as wages rose with inflation and productivity, so would the value of the percentage limit on pension contributions; and taxpayer and government could fine-tune in the light of changing circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD BURNHAM,
Little Primmers,
Primmers Green,
Wadhurst, East Sussex.

Taurus hampers private investors

From Mr David Montier
Sir, In the correspondence I have seen about the London Stock Exchange's new Taurus system, it seems to be assumed that private shareholders will have static shareholdings. I have not seen any comments on the proposed settlement system for share purchases.

As I understand the proposals, instead of the present Stock Exchange account, settlement will be required within five days. This may be fine for institutions but, under present banking time-scales, a broker is not going to receive cleared funds from his client within five days. Either the private investor will have to put his or her broker in funds before even instructing the broker to buy, or decide the whole process is becoming too difficult and give up the stockmarket altogether.

Believers in conspiracy theories might think this was partly the idea.

Yours faithfully,
D.J. MONTIER,
Eybroke Road,
Bickley, Kent.

Surely, not just a pretty face

From Ann McCann
Sir, Is a picture of a pretty girl a substitute for incisive financial reporting? I'm sure a technical analyst has more to say about the markets than the glib one liner attributed to her in the Business Times of August 17. Share it with us.

Yours faithfully,
ANN MCCANN,
1 Sandways,
274 Sandycroft Road,
Kew,
Richmond,
Surrey.



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Rain prevents Middlesex from setting record

Sussex have clear view of reasons for Sunday success

By JACK BAILEY

HOVE (Sussex won toss): No result. Middlesex 2pts, Sussex 2

RECORDS may be made to be broken, but yesterday Sussex managed to preserve one that has remained intact and in their domain since 1982. They needed to enlist the help of the weather to do so.

Thanks to steady rain falling after Middlesex had made 220 in their 40 overs, the match finished without a result and each side collected two points for their efforts.

Thus did Middlesex equal, not beat, the points record for a season.

That Middlesex should have been playing Sussex when the chance came to establish a fresh standard of excellence in Sunday League expertise, was, you might think, coincidence enough.

That at the end of this match both should finish with identical playing records as well as points, argued strongly in favour of divine intervention.

Sussex in 1982 played 16, won 14, lost one and had one no result. Thus far this season Middlesex have done precisely the same. Because of Durham's arrival in the first-class game, Middlesex have one match left, at the Oval, next Sunday. But even if they win against Surrey, the setting of a new points target would be somewhat academic, for part of the Test and County Cricket

TABLE						
	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts
Middlesex (11)	15	14	1	0	1	58
Essex (6)	10	11	4	0	1	46
Hampshire (17)	18	10	6	0	0	40
Somerset (8)	15	9	6	0	0	36
Surrey (5)	16	9	7	0	0	36
Kent (10)	16	7	8	0	4	36
Warwick (5)	16	7	8	0	2	34
Worcestershire (13)	16	7	8	0	2	34
Sussex (12)	18	7	7	0	2	32
Gloucestershire (15)	16	7	8	0	2	30
Derbyshire (15)	16	7	8	0	2	30
Leicestershire (12)	16	7	7	0	4	28
Nottinghamshire (13)	16	6	9	0	1	28
Yorkshire (17)	16	6	9	0	1	26
Glamorgan (8)	14	4	10	0	2	20
Notts (1)	18	3	13	0	2	16
Lancs (14)	16	3	11	0	2	14

Ball change renews suspicions

experience, points-gathering ability and composure are assets not readily given away. "I want to give myself time to think over the implications of a long tour," Botha said yesterday. "It has nothing to do with Saturday's result."

their former manager, has urged the players who have learned interviews with the local radio station that employs him.

to be eligible. Matthew Le Tissier is expected to be kept out of the attack for two weeks because of an ankle injury.

Botha casts doubt over his presence on tour

Cape Town: Nass Botha, the captain of South Africa, on their readmittance to international rugby union, cast doubt on his availability for the tour beginning next month to France and England in the wake of his country's heaviest international defeat (David Hands writes).

Botha, 34, said after the

available for the tour, the first by South Africa to senior rugby-playing countries since 1981.

John Williams, the South African coach, said that although the inclusion of some players would be reconsidered, they would not necessarily include his captain, whose experience, polemic-gathering

"I want to give myself time to think over the implications of a long tour," Botha said yesterday. "It has nothing to do with Saturday's result."

LOOKS p5

In rude health
— the saucy
postcard,
Nineties style

EDUCATION p7

Up to the
mark — an A-
level failure is
no disaster

LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY AUGUST 24 1992

OPENING LINES: This week Life and Times presents extracts from new autumn novels by five distinguished authors

Breach for a mother to bear

Edna O'Brien's *Time and Tide* is an account of a mother who leaves her husband and whose sons become pawns in the marital struggle. The prologue and final chapters are printed here

PROLOGUE

Do you believe her? she said. Once said, it cannot be unsaid. That is the thing with words. You cannot wash them and wipe them the way you wipe dishes, which was what she was doing, merely to cancel out the brutality of what she had just said. Four words. Four treacheries. He said nothing, his anger taking a great inner lurch, and then he walked out of the kitchen, leaving the tap running. At least from now on when she came to turn it on or off, the handle would yield to her grasp. How many times over the years had she marvelled at his strength and his brother's strength, children, her children possessed of a power and a determination that she had never mastered. Now the breach. Not long ago by chance she had read something that was a premonition of this, read it in a doctor's waiting room and copied it out slowly, methodically, so that it spoke itself back to her in her long kitchen, which looked like the deck of a liner, the floor a bleached blue with pale blue walls to match. Now they were both gone. Paddy to his watery rest and Tristan about to set out for Penny's top-floor flat, with its cushions and its empty bird cage suspended on a long plated golden cord. She had gone there once and was coldly received, so coldly that she took in every feature of the room, even the missing bars of the cage in which Penny kept her toiletries, brush and comb, and bottles of deodorant and perfume of what? She could imagine Tristan arriving with his luggage, maybe even carrying a can of beer, making light of his sudden but irreversible appearance, and Penny's secret whoops of victory that she had won out over that all-important, hovering creature, the Mother. Between mothers and would-be mothers this great chasm.

In the morning of life the son tears himself loose from the Mother, from the domestic hearth, to rise through battles to his destined heights. Always he imagines his worst enemy in front of him, yet he carries the enemy within himself, a deadly longing for the abyss, a longing to drown in his own source, to be sucked down into the realm of the Mothers.

It spoke itself in the long kitchen with the sun marching in elongated slants, their fat shadows beside them and the cream coming through both windows, window frame, so that the effect was of an indoor garden, the grave words fell on each side, she or maybe even Tristan, taken out a knife, a wooden spoon, or a clean tea cloth. She never did close drawers fully. Her husband had castigated her about that, said it was manifest of the same dithering as when she walked down the

street and showed a deficient character by her cowardly back.

What could she do now to retrieve things. She thought of rushing down the stairs to his bedroom with as normal a manner as artifice can manage and asking, "Would you like a cup of tea?" or, "Let's talk," but she could not do it, and maybe there was another reason, an unthinkable reason, which is that she wanted him to go, simply because it was something she had always dreaded. One like strain of thought at odds with all else said it had to be, this separation, and that one day he would feel the selfsame sorrow over a child of his, a son or a daughter, and in that instant know the cruel indissoluble overlapping of memory which binds us to our past. He would take the dog, too, take Charlie. Charlie was Paddy's dog, but had grown fond of her, gave her the paw, licked her knuckles, and watched, slavering, as she cut up his sausage for a treat, forgetting that she had committed him that lunatic week to the dogs' home. Tristan had gone there and retrieved him. Found Charlie among all the other woe-begone rejects, brought him home, washed him, pampered him, and cared for him as he was about to care for Penny. Why?

"Do you believe her?" she had said when he told her that Penny, that black scowl of a girl, was pregnant and that probably it was Paddy's but she couldn't be one hundred per cent sure, not could Paddy at the bottom of the Thames, perhaps by now not even there but gobbled up by the sea creatures and the sea monsters. She clung to the little story he used to tell her about the souls of drowned bodies becoming sea gulls, and in her river walks she looked for them, expecting one that might seize her with a look that was not birdlike.

Although her lips said these hard, rancorous things, inside, her heart, or wherever it is that feelings dwell, was spilling, so that she wanted to contradict what she had just said, wanted to say, "I'm saying these things because you have all gone from me, you have cut yourself off from me. Come back to me, even let Penny be civil to me and I will not say these hard things, because they are not what I truly feel." How should she still be here, wiping dishes, wiping anything that was on the stainless-steel ledge, spoons, knives, forks, now washing the dog's bowl, the fairy bowl that said DOG and had the remains of yellow cream in it, the meat all eaten up because Charlie liked the meat, even though it oozed a brown, gravy stuff, when she should be mending the tiffy she would wash this bowl, and while she washed it something would happen. A redemption, one of those miraculous swings which meant that he would come up the stairs, whistling to denote a truce, and say that he was not leaving, at least not for a few days, and then when he did leave, it would not be in high dudgeon but

in a state of grace. Grace. She had had so much of it once. Do these traits die or just get drained out of one, or do they remain, waiting for a resurgence? It must of course seem to Tristan as if all her ploy had gone out of her, or solidified, and yet that was not true; no, that was not true.

She could hear him packing or, rather, moving furniture in the room just underneath. Why did he have to drag furniture in order to pack? She couldn't tell. It was probably putting books and clothes into boxes, and along with all those things he would take as well the miniature rocking horse with its milky white paint, which in places was scratched, and the Chinese leather hatbox that she had given him and the sword that someone, an earlier girlfriend, had given him towards the end of their romance, and the several suits and jackets which he never wore but wouldn't part with. She bet her life that the metal hangers, a medley of them from the dry cleaner's, would be on the floor in a heap, a bequest on which she could skewer herself, take a lordly lunge.

Once, in New York, on stage, she saw a woman, a black woman, reenact aborting herself with one of those hangers, and so befuddled were her thoughts now that she believed that the child she was aborting in her was a memory child. She yearned to forget everything, even them. But nothing is forgotten. It follows you from the city to the country, stoops with you as you bend to tie your shoelace, trots into the shed where you get the hose, even pursues you down into the bowels of a ship if you happen to be a seafaring man. Yes, their voices clear as bells, lightish in tone, oh so long ago, like a refrain filtering back from beyond the cold immensities.

CHAPTER 45

In the luxury and hush of the chapel, she moves among blues and golds, among pews and escutcheons, in and out between the myriad altars, holding the bottle, skulking, candle flame heaving this way and that, reentering, recovering, swelling, like air being pumped into a bellows, sees the oak-brown of the confessionals, the drooping expressions of martyrs, always overlooked by sages with sage hands and sage parvise eyes, she sees Virgins, some like queens, some like courtesans, and in recesses naked angels determined to frisk. In the blue dome of the rotunda, a vaporous light, the smell and smokiness of quenched altar candles. There is a barricade of flowers on an iron rest. Waves of incense, a floating presence. Oddments have been forgotten — gloves, rosary beads, a child's knitted boot. Candles have been lit, to brace and intercede for those who have fled to their lunches, or their copulations, or their tennis courts, or their gymnasiums.



Fronds of light, gleaming, as in a theatre. She kneels by Saint Anthony, he who once brought respite. The bottom of the Infant Jesus fits snugly, fleshily, into the hollow of Saint Anthony's outstretched palm. Comical. In his other hand he holds an Easter lily. She always smiles, as if they share a joke. She cannot pray, and yet she waits the way someone waiting to be sick waits. There are two black boxes on metal stands. One for alms and one in His honour. She cannot give. That is the truth of it. That is her plight. Her sin. She cannot give. Too much has been taken away from her, everything: her sons, first one and now the other. Galling to see necklaces and lockets and trinkets in the oblong case next to

Saint Anthony, offerings from those who can give, mothers such as herself, wives such as herself, daughters such as herself. Hers not the only tragedy, and yet to her the only tragedy. Remembers reading about women in Africa, captive women walking back to their shackles, hundreds of miles back to the ruined village they were plucked from, most of them with child, the foul, forced seed of their captors. How could one love a child like that, and yet they might, their breasts a warm monstrance, their bitter memories dissolved. In a matching glass case are faded blotches on the velvet where other trinkets had been, until a fat priest or a thin priest unlooked them and studded to the pawnshop. She

Continued on page 4

Oh dear, I think it's that old complaint again

Now that we are all heartily sick of the details of other people's marital shenanigans, there is a gap to be filled. I mean to say, do you seriously want to read one more word about toes, Texans, or teenage stepdaughters? We have heard it all. We need something else to replace the entertainment which used to be found in really dirty divorce-court reporting. And I reckon we have found it: industrial tribunals.

Like fragments of soap opera, they let us peep briefly inside the tangled emotional world of other people's offices. From a position of safety we share the passions which seethe around directorial car-parking ("She had been warned about parking in my space!") — "Well, I got in earlier than him!"; over the length of lunch-hour, the interpretation of office compliments and the complex unwritten code of perks and expenses. We can appreciate the way resentful paranoia can fix onto the telephone manner of a colleague, or her pet Shi-Tzu. These emotions are usually as private as marriage itself, but like the old fault-finding divorce cases, these unfair dismissal tribunals make both sides fight hard, dirty and detailed.

This week's pearl was the case of the British Telecom maintenance

engineer who appears to hold the world record for sick leave. The tribunal was told that one domestic accident knocked the complainant out for 227 days, food poisoning for 26, a "bad cold" for 25, and so forth. He lost his specific claim for unfair dismissal when it turned out he had not been dismissed at all, but consented to early retirement ("It is clear that my client has been less than frank with me," said his lawyer, through gritted teeth). But what sticks in the mind is the last word of the complainant. "I felt I had a case, but it didn't come out as it should have," he said. "They had always wanted to get rid of me. It was as simple as that."

Ah yes! That is the way it is, all right. When you are a virtuoso wielder of sick-notes, the distasteful fact is that employers do want to get rid of you. Fast. Indeed, they wish they had never hired you. You are not an asset. You wreck rotas, sabotage shift planning and mess up their clients. This may seem unkind when your drooped arches are giving you such hell, but it is harsh commercial fact, from a practical point of view, you sink.

It takes time, of course, to reach this point. Your first bout of flu may attract genuine sympathy. Your subsequent, windmilling injury might meet nothing more than

WORKING-LIFE

Libby Purves on
people who make
illness their life's work



tolerant derision, and your first few migraine attacks provoke only a stern, thoughtful neutrality. But if you take it further, and contrive to fall off the kitchen stool while putting up a Venetian blind, contract five distinct mystery viruses and develop a tendency to lower back pain, the employer will become downright hostile. A coherent, recurring illness is often tolerated. I know of companies

which have nursed increasingly disabled employees with something akin to family love. What drives employers and colleagues berating mad is the unconnected, random string of sicknesses. Even when they are immaculately authenticated.

Most of us know this perfectly well. We operate a private system of checks and balances: when we wake up feeling rotten we instantly compute whether or not we are entitled to. "Hmmm," we say. "I haven't been off sick for years. I had the hysterectomy in my summer holidays and I did nights of overtime on the Dutch contract. I'm staying in bed." Or else: "Better stagger in, it's only three weeks since I had the shingles and George handled all my stuff then..." It is not wholly rational, but it keeps things ticking over. Indeed, I once stumbled from hospital straight into the BBC in thick sunglasses after double eye surgery, for no better reason than that I was plotting to bunk out of a programme the following month to go skiing. So I swapped my sickie for a skive. Fair enough.

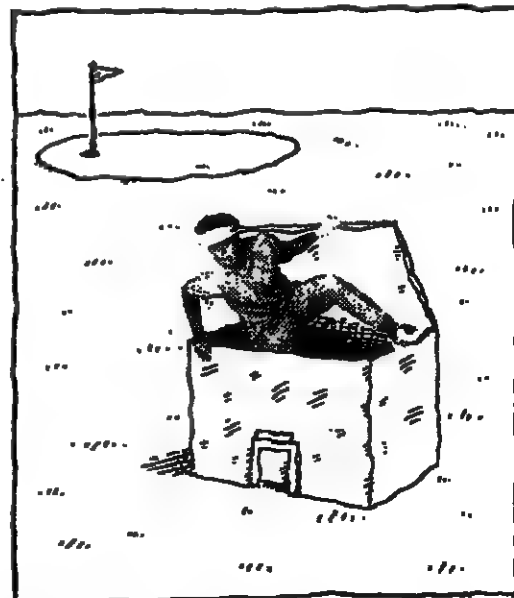
But some never make this calculation. They succumb to every passing breeze with a sense of utter justification which drives their paymasters mad. We had a nanny once

who — when not suffering from "One of my dropped throats" or "The back thing again" — devoted three weeks a month to premenstrual tension and the remaining week to nervous exhaustion. "Anemic symptoms," she would murmur to my husband. "It was a very, very heavy flow." Exit husband, flinching, as nanny packed for another long weekend. I am convinced she believed passionately in her own suffering. I am also convinced that 99 per cent of humanity regularly works through worse.

But how, asks the desperate employer, can one spot these frail vessels at the interview? Unless they actually fall over the carpet or use a throat spray between sentences? The only suggestion I can offer is from a Machiavellian recruiter who sometimes resorts to taking a pill herself in mid-interview, and sneeringly mentions some nebulous ailment. Then she waits to see if the candidate is interested. If he or she starts peering at the medicine and saying "Oooh, yes, I get that", it is blue-pencil time.

Take note, job-hunters. Next time your interviewer succumbs to violent coughing, it may be a trick. Remember to look baffled, healthy, and bored by such frailty. You'll get the job.

Getting out of
the bunker.



MURPHY'S. A LORE UNTO ITSELF



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Rapping and raving in the rain

With Notting Hill and Reading poised for their annual festivals this week, David Toop looks at the curious appeal of open-air music

Look at the weather. A day which begins with sunshine is sure to develop into rain, followed by debilitating humidity, a freezing wind, and finally a thunderstorm. This must be the outdoor festival season.

Why do we insist on outdoor music? Orchestras, rock bands and jazz singers were not designed for the dissipated acoustics of the open air. Like Count Dracula, rock, jazz, reggae and soul thrive in gloom. Their impact weakens under the bright sunlight and cheerful atmosphere of a well-run festival held in the middle of rolling country fields.

There is nothing like the sight of cows grazing distant meadows to dispel rock's urban Angst, poll dance music's techno-fantasies back down to earth or dilute the rage of rap. Equally, a performance of spell-binding power can be carried away over those same meadows by a strong gust of wind. Sadden by a continuous downpour, baked by the sun, crushed in a vast sea of unwashed bodies, who has not longed for the claustrophobia and dark anonymity of an intimate club?

Far from acting as a deterrent, the discomfort of hearing music in the open air seems to intensify the search for enjoyment. Free from the isolating effects of television or even numbered seats in a concert hall, camaraderie develops in direct proportion to suffering.

For years, the Notting Hill Carnival, which takes place in London this Bank Holiday weekend, has been portrayed as a time bomb which could only be diffused by utopian images of inner city harmony. Every year, photographs and news footage show policemen and women seemingly enraptured by the tropical atmosphere, the infectious soca music and a tantalisingly brief moment of community spirit.

With the appearance of these pictures, a sign of relief is expected. Street carnivals and festivals are worthwhile, they seem to say, because they touch upon our desire to share cultural experiences which are informal and unpredictable enough to erode social boundaries.

Nobody quite believes the images, yet they symbolise an imaginary society enjoying the bliss of benign anarchy. Authority has been seduced by the universal language of music and dance. Ownership of



Notting Hill Carnival: touching upon our desire to share cultural experiences which are informal and unpredictable enough to erode social boundaries

rural land and city streets has reverted to the people. Every corner resounds with the throb of a different style of music. Diversity and unbridled expression triumph over uniformity and constraint.

Hippy dreaming this may be, yet many devotees of street carnivals and countryside festivals identify with the elusive sense of freedom that these events can offer. A two- or three-day festival gives value for money, but the ultimate worth of surviving hazards such as unpleasant toilet facilities, objectionable food, sociopathic security guards, drug dealers or pickpockets is the liberating feeling that normal rules do not apply.

Who cares that there are few washing facilities, that the bands are invisible and the music inaudible, or that a trip to buy an indigestible veggie burger can take 45 minutes? Nobody ever said that freedom

would be easy. Members of a festival audience might even be crushed and die, as happened on one tragic occasion at a peaceable but noisy Heavy Metal festival. Nothing is too terrible, not even the music, to deter the crowds from attending long-running fixtures such as Castle Donington, Glastonbury, the Notting Hill Carnival or the Reading Festival, which starts on Friday.

Public perception of these events is less charitable. Although our alarms and other contemporary irritants drive us mad on a daily basis, the noise of music festivals causes a particularly vocal kind of distress among residents. Then there are the pitched battles. For some years, the Notting Hill Carnival was doomed to erupt into violence. As the carnival began to shed its unwanted role as a marker of racial tension, transforming itself into a reliably sociable date on the

calendar, so acid house parties picked up the responsibility for threatening the fabric of society. With acid house all but forgotten, New Age travellers and their outdoor raves now occupy centre stage in the drama of social panics.

Thanks to their stubbornly non-conforming lifestyle and unlicensed festivals, New Age travellers have come under the microscope this summer. In their determination to dance, play music and camp out on rural land, no matter who it belongs to, the travellers pose a problem: now every licensed festival hopes they will stay away.

The reality is that clashes between travellers and the police have escalated in seriousness. On May 23, more than 20,000 travellers parked their vans and caravans on Castlemorton Common in Hereford

and Worcester and held an illegal festival. More than 50 arrests were made, mostly for drug-related offences, and since then the antagonism has grown. On August 11, for example, a large band of travellers in Otterbourne, Hampshire, threw stones at the police and council officials, burned council buildings and were eventually evicted by 300 police officers wearing riot gear.

Out of such confrontations grows a more developed sense of injustice. Spiral Tribe, the notorious sound system which has devoted its energies to organising outdoor raves in proscribed places — including Castlemorton and Canary Wharf — has reacted to the events of this summer by releasing a single called "Breach the Peace".

After more than 30 years of outdoor festivals, the idealistic aims remain more or less the same. A proportion of festival-goers looks

back to the original free festivals of the late 1960s and early 1970s and clings to their hippy ideals. The more serious rock fans regard outdoor festivals as a bargain opportunity to hear a cross-section of bands in the open air. Rave followers, most of them too young to be interested in Sixties hippies and barely interested in bands, simply want to dance all night in an atmosphere of freedom and communality.

In this sense, festivals are a rite of passage. The controversies unleashed by spontaneous and illegal events may be difficult to resolve, yet three decades of sanctimonious panic-reactions should have taught us that the harmfulness of such events is exaggerated. Until the simple desire to hear music in open spaces is accommodated with more flexibility, open-air music events will still threaten to turn into battlefields.

ARTS BRIEF

Second prize

WHAT Glasgow City Council describes as the "second most valuable cash award in the British art world" was agreed last week. The £12,000 City of Glasgow Lord Provost's Prize will be awarded to the best work exhibited in the Royal Glasgow Institute's annual show each November and December in the McLellan Galleries. Only the Tate's £20,000 Turner Prize is more valuable. Entry is open to artists regardless of nationality and to all forms of visual art. Four shortlisted works will be selected before the exhibition begins, and the winner — judged by a panel including "an artist of international repute" — will be announced during the final week.

Leaving port

RICHARD NELSON's epic play, *Columbus, And The Discovery of Japan*, is setting sail early from the Barbican, the victim of poor reviews and even worse attendance. Its Royal Shakespeare Company run will now end on September 16, not October 3 as originally planned, and its slots will be filled with extra performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and the *Oedipus Trilogy*.

Musical launch

PAUL GAMBACCINI, the nearest thing there is in Britain to a pop scholar, will be in the Classic FM presentation team when the country's first national commercial station goes on the air on September 7. He will present the station's three-hour chart show on Saturday mornings. At the other end of the musical spectrum, meanwhile, Classic FM has made a deal with the London Symphony Orchestra to broadcast 18 performances live, starting on the station's launch day.

Last chance...

FOR the third year running England & Co. have asked some 80 artists to work in the confined comfort of a box, maximum size about 2ft square — though most of the works on show are much smaller. The variety of style and content is amazing, from crisp abstraction to realist fantasy. Charm is much in evidence, but the boxes can be severe and even sinister as well as whimsical. You can see them as part of the exhibition, "Art in Boxes", at England & Co, London W11 (071-221 0417), until Saturday.

Theatre: The Provoked Wife at the New End, Hampstead

Constantly brutish

Vanbrugh's first play eyes the follies and fancies of society through two sensible characters who eventually pair off together. Heartfree, a young man determined not to fall in love, and Belinda, fairly determined not to follow the example of her aunt and marry a drunken brute for his title.

Understanding too late the message contained in his name, which is Brute, Lady Brute has endured his boorishness for two years and is sorely tempted to unbend towards a devoted gallant, helpfully named Constant, and perhaps go even further. Vanbrugh floats the argument that there may be a point beyond which a wife's loyalty to her spouse can be withdrawn. If he goes elsewhere for his pleasures, why not she?

Vanbrugh cannot quite bring himself to show her doing so, but in the closing moments the way lies clearly open to her. Odd, therefore,

and smacking of misogyny, that Jonathan Best, director of this revival, should end with a reprise of a song about whores, sung sotto voce by Constant (Jon Harris). With that addition a different argument comes to the fore: a man's name may be Constant or Brute, but once he obtains his lady he no longer cherishes her. Bad news for the future Mrs Heartfree.

On the other hand, Best may have sussed out Constant's character with greater perception than his author. Harris's performance is dour and muted but this, like his unshaven cheeks, may be intended to hint at his roguery. Corinna Richards looks uncertain in the role of Lady Brute, and though Caroline Lintott's Belinda has more spirit, both stand awkwardly. The men look right when motionless, but the women look as if they are on their feet only because there are not enough chairs to go round.

As Heartfree, to whom Best significantly gives a shaving scene, Charles Armstrong brings a dry, throw-away delivery and an excellent judgement of the wit in his lines. His performance charges the character with life. John Ashton makes surprisingly little of Sir John Brute's famous petticoat scene, but Carol Holt is good fun in the Fenella Fielding role of Lady Fancyfull, flashing discontent with her large eyes and lapsing into French at moments of stress. Adrienne Swan's Mademoiselle is her able partner.

The pleasures of the evening triumph over its uneven patches but Sarah Ashpole's bare set is awful. The budget may be tight and the idea behind the design is not exactly at odds with the spirit of the play — a stage divided into cream and blue sections by a jagged line — but who enjoys looking at that for three hours?

JEREMY KINGSTON

Rock: Jack Bruce returns with a new three-piece band

SEEN through the telescope of history, it is Eric Clapton who looms large as the star of Sixties "supergroup" Cream. But it was bassist Jack Bruce who was the band's singer and principal songwriter.

Unfortunately, Bruce has never found his metier since the breakup of that trailblazing trio in 1969. Part of his problem has been in locating musicians strong enough to spar with in performance without incurring the inevitable clashes of ego. His purposeful neglect of the Cream legacy has not helped matters either, since the somewhat eccentric streak in Bruce's solo work has militated against widespread acceptance of him as a star in his own right.

Now both problems appear to have been resolved, and Bruce, now 49, has resurfaced at the helm of another three-piece, comprising veteran session drummer Simon Phillips — surely the most technically adept rock drummer England has ever produced — and a 20-year-old American guitar prodigy called Blues Saraceno. At their London debut, at the Grand in

Topped with Cream

Clapham, the band demonstrated a finely balanced level of instrumental firepower, and far from avoiding the Cream repertoire, Bruce revelled in it. The favourites were dotted throughout a pleasingly varied set with a persistent bias towards his earlier work. "White Room" made an early appearance followed shortly afterwards by an inspired reading of the Booker T. Jones and William Bell song "Born Under a Bad Sign".

Indeed, it was the blues roots of Cream which were most thoroughly examined and the best part of the show was a sequence beginning with Muddy Waters' "Rolling and Tumbling". Bruce produced a harmonica while Phillips emerged from behind his fortress of percussion to sit

at the front, playing a very fast shuffle rhythm with brushes on a single snare drum. Saraceno's guitar delicately shadowed the melody line, while Bruce sang in his rich bellow of a voice, slurring syllables and blowing harmonica phrases like a steam train running at full stretch. This gave way to Howlin' Wolf's "Sitting On Top Of The World" which began in a more understated way than Cream's version and then built to a mind-blowing climax with Bruce producing an unbelievably pugnacious sound from his customised fretless bass.

Several intriguingly complex numbers from Bruce's solo canon were dispatched with great panache, but the encores of "Politician" and "Spoonful" were a reminder of the simplicity at the core of Bruce's erratic genius. Although underpinned by an unmistakable element of nostalgia, this was a respectable, alert and thoroughly aggressive display from one of rock's originals.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Proms: Tennstedt conducts Bach, Wagner and Liszt

THIS will surely be remembered as one of the great Proms of the current season. What on the face of it might have seemed like a somewhat eccentrically archaic style of programming was transformed by Klaus Tennstedt and the London Philharmonic into an evening of profound musical reward.

Bach's Toccata and Fugue in B Minor for organ began the proceedings, and Wagner's overture to the *Meistersinger* ended the evening. The almost invisible link between Bach's organ music and a long evening of Wagner extracts was, of course, Liszt.

When James O'Donnell played, most imaginatively, that composer's *Prelude and Fugue on Bach* he showed the Janus face of Liszt's musical hero worship: back to the Bach whose "own organworks he discreetly and lovingly transcribed and forward to the new shifting and chromatic world of Wagner.

In this context, Liszt's ardent evangelising piano

Three steps to genius

transcriptions of Wagner came irresistibly to mind in the subsequent orchestral performances of the overture and Venusberg music from *Tannhäuser*, and the *Rienzi* Overture. The former revealed so much of the making and vision of the work that to follow it with the latter, and all before the interval, seemed near glutinous excess.

After a beautifully tuned horn and wind chant, Tennstedt made his way to Venusberg by building layers of tone, strata which were to lead to the trombone trio and the loud, vertical stridings of the exceptionally vigorous strings.

The *Bacchanale* was approached by the fugitive spirits

of some fleet finger trilling, thumping to a haze of tremolando for the clarinet and violins, and wonderfully, the more intense the writing, the more transparent the textures appeared to become.

The *Rienzi* Overture was given a dignity it barely deserved. This was matched by the breadth and depth of Tennstedt's pacing in the final and inevitable *Meistersinger* Overture, its fleeting episodes breathing and chucking their way in and out of its pomp and circumstance.

Tennstedt's greatest moments, however, were in *Siegfried's* Rhine Journey and the Funeral March from *Götterdämmerung*. The trumpet sword rang out from a web of signals and associations from the musical subconscious spun by Tennstedt into a supple continuum of sound. After the last dying breath of this rare and revealing performance, anything more seemed superfluous.

HILARY FINCH

TELEVISION REVIEW

Painful journey into history

The real horror in Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah* (Channel 4, Saturday) is that it shows how monstrous cruelties were done by — and suffered by — people as ordinary as ourselves. Among the hundreds of Holocaust films, Lanzmann's is unique in showing not the past of the Holocaust, but the living present. There is no archive material in it. The fatal railway lines to the concentration camps are shown as they are, here and now. Even some of the same trains are still in service. The barracks, the gas chambers and the incinerators are ruined and overgrown, or turned into macabre museums, but the physical evidence remains. Messrs Saurer, who built the gas wagons, are still in business.

Much more important are the human survivors. Lanzmann spent more than a decade tracing the rare few who miraculously escaped the gas chambers and three perpetrators who would talk about their work (most of whom, he noted, demanded payment for their memories). Lanzmann (a philosopher



A former train driver retraces the route to Treblinka

forces them all to confront the present with their past. The psychological scars left by what the victims suffered and witnessed are revealed as deep and ineradicable. So, quite often, is the pride of the old Nazis.

The events of half a century ago still live as long as these people do. The record is most impressive when memories clash and corroborate. The widow of a Nazi school teacher remembers pleasantly a young Jewish boy who sang sweetly for the Germans. Lanzmann produces the boy himself, still not an old man, who sings the song the old women remember.

Lanzmann defies all the ordinary rules of documentary decency. He uses hidden cameras and microphones to record interviews with the old Nazis. He assures one of them that his identity will be kept secret, then shamelessly informs the world that this is Franz Suchowiel, an SS guard at Treblinka. As merciless with the victims as with the executioners, he ignores their pleas to turn the camera off and shows them lose control, overcome by the pain they have tried to suppress for 40 years.

Yet this is different from the nude voyeurism of royal-bating reporters. Lanzmann intrudes as a participant, not just an observer. He freely admits his indiscretions, just as he argues with his translator over how to handle an interview, nags the truth out of reticent witnesses,

or, in different mood, throws a comforting arm around someone for whom the memory is too much.

Cheating, cajoling or caressing, Lanzmann uses every means to serve his purpose. His success vindicates the film, and its nine hours (which never seem too long), even after half a century of death camp histories.

Lanzmann himself rejects the term "Holocaust", because it suggests a natural catastrophe, which the Nazi genocide of the Jews, he says, was not. Yet in the end perhaps the greatest value of *Shoah* is that it proves Lanzmann wrong, that after all the Holocaust was a natural catastrophe, to the extent that it was effected by ordinary men and made possible by ordinary human deficiencies. *Shoah* is as contemporary as Iraq or the Balkans. It is not hard to see why Marcel Ophüls, director of *The Sorrow and the Pity* and a man not readily carried away, called it "the greatest documentary about contemporary history ever made".

DAVID ROBINSON

As vehicles choke our cities, Peter Barnard looks into the 21st century and sees an uncertain future for the mass produced automobile

Cars reach the end of the road

The year is 2013 — not so far away — the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry Ford, father of the mass-produced car. To mark the occasion, cars from all over Britain have been allowed into central London, which has been long since closed to private vehicles, for a summer festival, a celebration of the motor car.

An orderly procession of vintage and modern vehicles, specially licensed for the occasion, travels at a uniform ten miles per hour towards the rallying point in Hyde Park. What memories this sight, and these cars, will stir. The Ford Granada, the Vauxhall Carlton, the Rover 520, icons of the late 20th century, all revered as recently as the 1990s as "executive lounges".

Dotted through the procession, placards evoke the golden era before car advertising was banned from television in 2008, after research convinced the Labour government under Gordon (now Sir Gordon) Brown that cars were at least as harmful as cigarettes. Among the slogans, the famous one from Fiat: "Designed by computers, built by robots". Rover's pledge: "Now we're motoring". BMW's snuff: "The ultimate driving machine".

In the very centre of Hyde Park, dream machines from the late 20th century circle, a parade lap for the more ridiculous manifestations of man's best friend: the McLaren F1, the Jaguar XJ220, the Lamborghini Diablo, the Bugatti (that resonant name) EB110.

Most of these had been launched around 1992. All had been built in limited numbers, to be driven to the homes of their wealthy owners (who included Rod Stewart, a singer of the time), where they would be left in a garage. Even in 1992, there was nowhere to go with a car that would do 200mph. Nor was there anywhere, barring a disused airfield or a motorway at three o'clock in the morning, to test the claim that it would travel from 0 to 60mph in three seconds.

A fanciful scene? Perhaps not. Such a celebration would be the car's last hurrah. Today, in 1992, all the factors that would make such an event a genuine curiosity are already in place. It is only a question of how long it will take, and what particular circumstance will be required to galvanise the government and the public into taking the action that will save our cities from being swamped by cars. The car's Armageddon is approaching.

Consider what the car is doing to us. Consider what it will do in the future. On current projections, there will be 35 million cars on British roads by 2025, enough to fill a motorway from London to Edinburgh. Provided it was 257 lanes wide. In 1990 there were 21.9 million cars in Britain. In

1970, the figure was 12.2 million. Henry Ford, apart from being the first mass producer of cars, was also famous for believing that history was bunk. But the history that Henry Ford made is finally catching up with the means by which he made it. Congestion and carbon monoxide are only the most obvious factors ranged against the car. There are others, more subtle.

Lynn Sloman, the new assistant director of Transport 2000, the pressure group, cites statistics on the effects that the car has on the lives of children. "Two surveys by the Policy Studies Institute looked at the age at which children were granted a licence, so to speak, to use the street on their own: to walk to

school, to play with other children," Ms Sloman says. "In 1990, that age was two years older than it had been in 1971."

"A child of nine was doing things in 1990 that a child of seven was allowed to do in 1971. The reason was the danger from traffic."

A related statistic shows that while in 1971 only 14 per cent of junior school children were driven to school, by 1990 the figure was 64 per cent. Anthropologists, social workers, psychiatrists, all have joined the clamour for change, claiming that the motor car isolates children from their peers, making them anti-social and wedded to indoor life.

But the two central causes of change will be the rising price of oil and sheer congestion. The second factor could easily come into a play through a single, dramatic event, a gridlock of traffic in a city such as London.

Already the signs are there. In a move towards the seemingly inevitable ban on private vehicles from inner cities, Cambridge will next year introduce a scheme under which cars entering the city will pass through an electronic barrier, their owners being billed for every minute they spend in the centre.

In Birmingham, the city centre was closed over four days at Christmas 1990: the roads were

simply full up. After the second world war, Birmingham was rebuilt specifically to accommodate the motor car. In September last year, the city centre was pedestrianised.

In Bristol a week ago, the Galleries, a new shopping complex, had part of its multi-storey car park closed down by local health inspectors after fumes reached dangerous levels. The cause was cars queuing to get out.

Political measures are coming, too. The company car, that perk-in-trade of the late 20th century which accounts for 2.5 million — or half — of the cars sold every year, is on the skids. Already the tax concessions they attract have been whittled away and could be abolished altogether by 1994.

This will be a body blow to the manufacturers, but not a fatal one. The big car makers are fighting back with lean-burn engines and radical new developments which, within a few years, will have most of them producing cars which can run on both batteries and petrol, long motorway journeys using the latter supposedly utilised to re-charge the former.

But battery technology shows no sign of overcoming the crucial size problem: batteries still occupy too much space. This will either make cars bigger (unthinkable) or take up all the luggage space (counter-productive).

If the tide is turning against cars, it is also turning against drivers. Proposals are with the government that will end forever the days when you took a driving test at 17 and drove until you dropped except for the formality of a licence renewal when you reached 70.

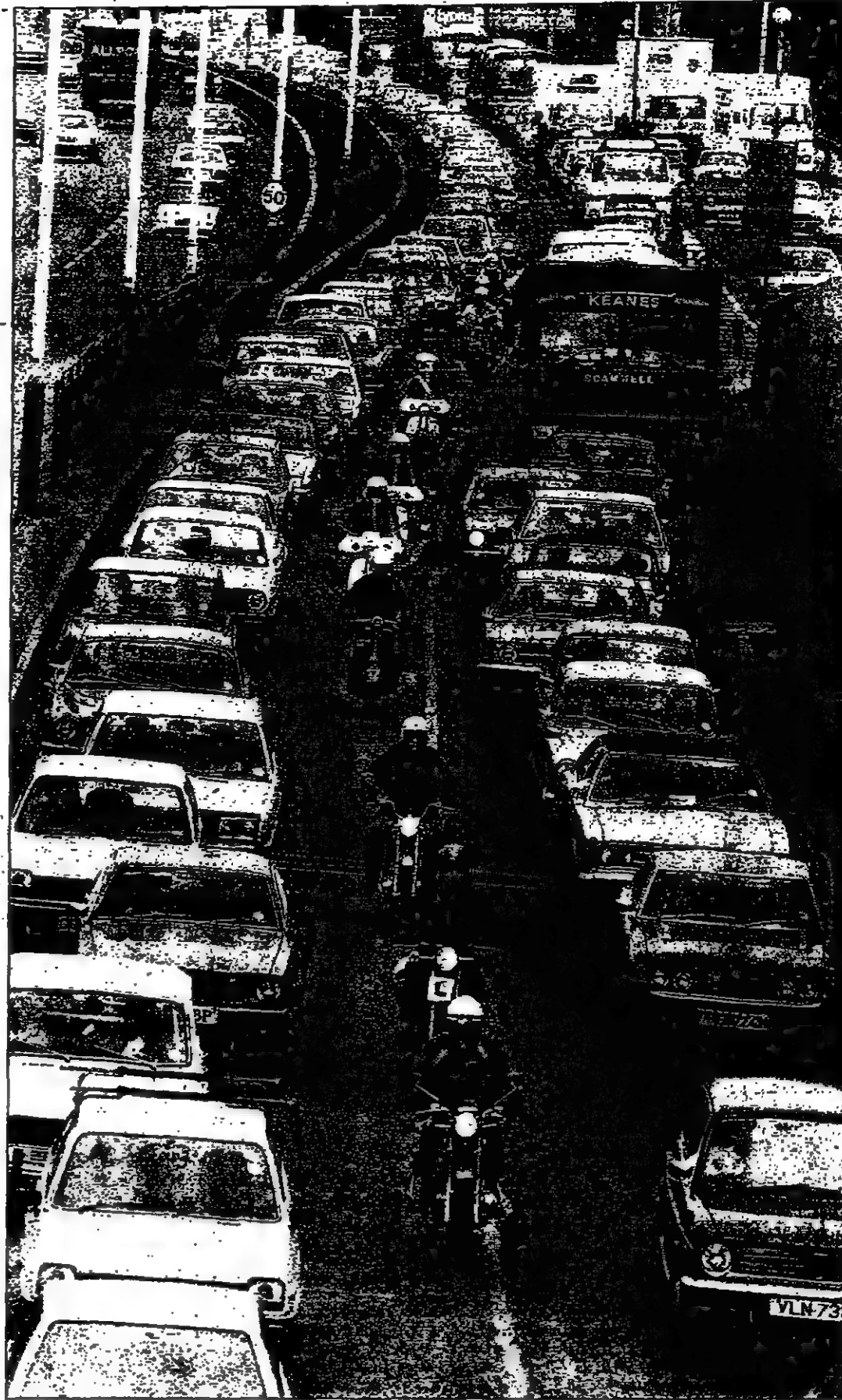
Testing every ten years has been mooted, together with a longer written test, taken at a computer terminal as is already done in America, covering causes of accidents and simple mechanical faults as well as driving technique.

The health of drivers is also on the agenda. Insurance companies may eventually be encouraged to charge smokers a stiff excess on the basis that smoking increases the risk of a heart attack at the wheel. Legislation is likely which will force drink-drivers (which could soon mean any driver who has had anything to drink) to attend a two-week rehabilitation course before driving again, another idea taken from the United States.

There are some lobbyists who would like to see a restriction on the size of engines in cars belonging to young people, as already applies to motorcyclists.

This could well destroy the most fashionable car market: for superminis badged GTI. With that single piece of legislation, the whole ethos of car owning would be turned inside out.

Few people who drive a GTI are likely to know that the letters stand



Nose to tail traffic jams like this may turn into total gridlock in many Western cities

for Grand Tourer and fuel injection. GTI, like cars themselves, have acquired a meaning which has little to do with the literal one. How can something only three metres long be called a "grand tourer"?

These cars are feeding troughs for the male ego, sex substitutes. For instance, a couple of years ago, there was an advertisement for exhaust units, on the face of it not the most sexy of objects. It showed a girl in a bikini with one leg wrapped around an exhaust pipe. It was as much a celebration of Sigmund Freud as of Henry Ford.

Even the names given to cars reflect their maleness — Colt, Jaguar, Interceptor — although in recent years there have been tentative efforts at more feminine badging, with shopping cars and runabouts being called Tipo, Serrano, Symphony.

Perhaps in 2013, some things will not have changed. The two-car family could be not only intact, but have become a three-car family. The Tempo for Her short journeys, the identical (but male-badged) Streak for His and... well, private garages that

will be air conditioned against damp and vacuum-sealed against dust, the better to preserve the sleek, long-bonnetted creature, the third car, which rests therein. Men will spend their Sunday mornings polishing them, or at a bench in the garage making their personalised number plates: ZAP 1, K1 SS and so on.

The difference will be that for all their beauty, these throwbacks to the late 20th century, will be lacking a beastly element. They will be replicas, possessed of all their glories except an engine.

Beating driving passions

In its early days the motor car was known as the "horseless carriage". Although horses and cubic capacity took over as the means of describing the car's power unit, Horse Power is the term still used by elderly drivers. They may have a point, for the car shows signs of becoming the horse of the 21st century.

Dr Peter Marsh, the head of the Oxford-based MCM Research and author of a book called *Driving Passion: Psychology of the Car*, regards the 1990s as the time when Draconian legislation is the only route to ending the car's dominance. "Horses" were once our main form of transport," he says, "now they are basically a leisure device. That is what the car must become."

"But I take a somewhat Statist view: you've got to stop the bastards doing it. It's like race relations. You can change people's behaviour more readily than you can change their attitudes. You legislate against racial prejudice and, hopefully, over time, as more black people take on responsible positions, people become used to that and their attitudes slowly change. But you need the legislation first."

The psychology of the car driver dictates that he or she will rationalise, saying that a car is necessary for a particular journey when it palpably is not. "People like the privacy and the independence a car offers them," Dr Marsh says. "No matter how comfortable you make public transport, the feeling remains that it is someone else's territory, something they do not control."

If attitudes are to change, Dr Marsh believes it will be because people are made to suffer the consequences of the car. "You don't build more roads. No, you let people sit in ever-longer traffic jams until they tire of it. At the same time, you develop a proper, integrated, transport policy so that drivers have an alternative."

None of which is likely to change the macho nature of relationships between (mostly) men and cars. Research shows that men divide about 50-50 as between those who call a car "she" and those who call it "he". Depressingly, when a car goes wrong men are likely to call it "bitch".

"But," Dr Marsh says, "it goes much deeper than that. The car combines fundamental male phallic symbolism with graceful feminine curves. It's powerful imagery and that is partly why legislation is needed."

Continued from page 1

cannot give. She will not give. She would steal the baroque of flowers from the altar except that they are so vulgar, so secular, so vast, so over-blown. To think that she thought she might pray. What does one do with grief? What does one do with hate? What does one do with a bastard child seeded from a lewd and vicious captor? What does one do? She thinks of refuse dumps. Not a pretty sight. They are everywhere, only a mile or two from your stately manor or your green-groves-rushes lake. A phantasmagoria of ashes, plastic, paper, food, condoms, flowers, must, the afterbirth of all hope, toil, and aspiration merged into a grotesquery which cannot itself be destroyed. She thinks that she is like that and calls out to her dead mother, the pity, the raving pity that they had never known that milky oneness: each in the trajectory of dark.

How could he have known? At any rate, he is there chaining his bicycle to the black railing. The blue of the chain transparent, the metal inside like a series of snakes, each coil snug in its socket. "Mass is finished," she says, harshly, harshly.

"I've just come to say my little prayers."

"Oh, you're religious."

"Let me tell you," he says, and he moves towards her, his hackles out, his moment for retribution. She may think he killed her son.

She may think he cadged a ticket to life. She has another guess coming. He would gladly have died. Yes, lady, to relieve the moment before the toss of the coin, the heave-ho, the hole that he squirmed into, is to relieve a nightmare every sleeping and waking moment of his life. He knows the worst. He has been there. Death is not the worst. Having to live is, having to live knowing that everyone else has forgotten it, the schamozle has died down and you're alone and you've lost your three best friends. He

laughs, a strange, metallic laugh, and says evidently it was his fate, his karma. His outburst does not frighten her, merely makes her pause for a moment to think.

"Your three best friends?"

He recoils, fears that he has said too much, babbled.

"Say anything... say anything," she whispers.

"Well... we have dinner," and he looks to see if this is too fantastic, but it isn't. "Jim loved soup, so I make soup, tomato or lentil... We have it in mugs... Pasco and I go swimming... he was a great swimmer, the best swimmer of us all... he's teaching me to dive. Then Hugo, the ring-leader, our king... he was going to be a rock star, he had all the makings, the smile, the looks, the talent... He left a song... Well, a bit of a song — 'Love Is Gonna Cut You Down'. We put different lines to it... different beginnings... different ends. 'Love Is Gonna Cut You Down'. I make him an omelette and he throws it back in my face and he says, 'Jesus, it's runny... It's not the way I like it' so I add this and that to it, a bit of grated cheese, herbs, then I whisk it, put it back in the pan, and I brown it and toss it and say, 'Is that the way you like it, Hugo?' He loves it. He tells me he loves it. I put a few flowers in a pot on the windowsill and I say, 'They're for you, and they're for you, and they're for you...'

Suddenly he stops and she sees that he is about to cry but that he does not want her to see him, shrinks from pity. So this is what he does with his pain. He regards them as living, or at least living in that region inside himself which matters. Most likely Hugo and he were lovers; yes, they were lovers, because he singles Hugo out, says that he did not want to go to that party, that he woke up and said he'd had a dream in which his boots were too heavy for swimming.

They had gone to bed, they had made love, then Hugo's dream, then Hugo ignoring his dream, then down to the pier and meeting the others and meeting Paddy. She can almost touch it, the picture is so real.

"So that's how you manage," she says quietly and with astonishment.

"Sometimes... some days are worse. You see, I haven't been to the bottom yet... the very bottom," he says.

But she already knows. They had left. They had left. What met her on the kitchen floor were the gifts that she had given him: necessities, as she called them. A radio, a blender, a coffeepot, and a packet of fresh coffee beans. Seeing them in their heap, she thought, He has not even acknowledged them, he has gone out and left them there, to show his anger and confirm his separateness. The note had slipped down behind. She

... at the moment I just don't sleep."

Their bodies more or less fall onto one another, in a sudden embrace. He is all vertebrae, so that it is like holding a musical instrument that is about to break yet won't, will keep faith with something within, innocence perhaps.

CHAPTER 46

At home there was no barking. He had left. They had left. What met her on the kitchen floor were the gifts that she had given him: necessities, as she called them. A radio, a blender, a coffeepot, and a packet of fresh coffee beans. Seeing them in their heap, she thought, He has not even acknowledged them, he has gone out and left them there, to show his anger and confirm his separateness. The note had slipped down behind. She

even those little ruses by which we lay claim on one another. "I can bear it," she said, and looked around at the air so harmless, so flaccid, and so still, a stillness such as she had not known since it had happened, or maybe ever. In the stillness there was a silence, but there was no word for that yet because it was so new, pale sanctuary devoid at last of all consolation.

"You can bear it," the silence said, because that is all there is, this now that then, this present that past, this life this death, and the involuntary shudder that keeps reminding us we are alive.

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Time and Tide by Edna O'Brien is published by Viking on September 24 (£14.99).

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Opening Lines:
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Dr Edelman, a Nobel laureate and the director of the Neurosciences Institute, New York, and Oliver Sacks, Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, both argue that biology is the key to understanding the brain. Introduced by Colin Blakemore, Professor of Physiology, Oxford University, Dr Edelman will speak on biology and the brain, followed by Dr Sacks on neurology and the soul.

The lecture will take place on September 7 at 7.15pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets by filling in the coupon (right) or contacting Dillons by telephone, fax or in person.

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Cable vision: this TSE jersey is an example of the style that has enabled the company to extend its hold on the cashmere fashion business beyond the US into Europe. Whether or not it has the softest touch, customers are buying

If it feels good, let's wear it

Everyone knows that Scottish cashmere is the best. It took hot competition from abroad, however, to show us just how good it really is. The Italians dazzle followers of fashion with their polished styling. But there is a hairier cashmere, dismissed by the Scots as "fluffy". Hong Kong's high-tech knitting industry produces good-looking cashmere sweaters at the lowest prices. "Lightweight" and "lean" are the words used by aficionados of cashmere's tactile qualities when they start making comparisons between the Hong Kong product and the firm stiffness of, say, a simple cashmere V-neck jersey that is priced higher because of its "made in Scotland" label.

The strength of the world challenge was enough, however, to shake even the marketing men in Hawick and Innerleithen, the heart of the Scottish cashmere business and headquarters of the Dawson Group of cashmere companies. Centuries-old traditions in manufacturing and finishing a cashmere jersey, top-quality yarn and a design policy, rooted in public

classics had always seemed enough to secure superiority in the international market, and the 1980s spending spree on luxury goods had been good for Scottish cashmere. Even when top-quality Chinese raw cashmere fleece became scarce (its distribution was briefly decentralised) and prices spiralled in the mid-1980s, women still paid for the pleasure of wrapping themselves in a stylish cashmere escape. Those were the days when affluent customers in Burlington Arcade, London's exclusive cashmere shopping enclave, would dither over two-ply cashmere scarves in a choice of three colours at £600, and end up buying all three. With Chinese fleece costs now stabilised at 20 per cent lower, and the recession toughening up competition, prices have come down even at the top end of the market for labels such as Ballantyne and Pringle. Cashmere manufacturers recognise the strength of their product in shops where quality and value for money means more than a passing high-fashion fix.

Costs have been whittled away even more by TSE, which concen-

Scotland has fought off, for the moment, overseas challengers to retain its title as the quality cashmere country. Liz Smith writes

trates on high-styled knitwear. TSE established itself in the fashion market four years ago and is already extending its hold on the cashmere fashion business beyond the US into Europe. Stores in the UK (including Liberty, Harrods and Harvey Nichols in London) and specialist shops now stock TSE cashmere with its price tag 25 per cent lower than most other cashmere lines.

TSE (you say it as a set of initials) stands for Augustine The (pronounced "say"), the Hong Kong industrialist who was approached 12 years ago by the central government in Beijing to build a modern cashmere industry in China. It is a vertical empire that combs, spins and knits its own cashmere fleece. It even has its own goat farms in the Xinjiang province in the far north-west of China, near the Gobi desert. The company's first market was the US, which it flooded with inexpensive cashmere sweaters



From raw fibre to red fashion

during the 1980s. The knitwear sold well. It made no impression on the fashion consciousness, but that was not the point. The exercise had got the factories rolling. Jeffrey Mortimer, of TSE UK, remembers TSE's initial production run. "We shipped in 450,000 sweaters a

year. They were very, very cheap and so lightweight you could shoot a pea through them," he says.

Three years ago all that changed. They upgraded the quality. They even hired a designer, Deva King, an established name in the Borders where she had worked for Johnston's of Elgin. Today the TSE range includes some cashmere classics such as twinsets with traditional petersham ribbon trim and fringed reversible blankets that double as stylish stoles, but they do not go quite as classic as the simple V-neck. Leggings, long loose tunics and luxurious cable-knit turtle-neck sweaters as well as fashionable skinny-ribbed sweaters are more their line, and the customers love them. The Harvey Nichols TSE shop is doubling in size next month and a further TSE for men will open in the store's basement. Prices range from £99 for a short-sleeved crew-neck two-ply cashmere sweater, or £159 for mock-turtleneck

ribbed 2-ply sweater, up to £170 for a reversible cashmere poncho. TSE also manufactures cashmere lines for top international designers, including Donna Karan, Kenzo and Nicole Farhi.

Because most raw cashmere fleece comes from China, Inner Mongolia or Tibet and follows the same complicated trail by yak and raft on to Hong Kong (for quality-control inspection), the final feel of the sweater is determined by where it is processed. The Dawson Group, based in Edinburgh, is the largest processor of cashmere in the world. Most Chinese cashmere fleece ends up in the Joseph Dawson headquarters in Bradford in Yorkshire, where it arrives in hessian bales to be processed and have its coarse outer fleece de-haired.

Although the Italians buy their fleece from Joseph Dawson, the distinctive "fluffiness" of Italian cashmere is the result of it being dyed after it has been spun into yarn. Fleece in Hong Kong is processed in a chemical-based wash, which results in cashmere sweaters with a noticeably loose texture. Only in Scotland, however,

is fleece dyed in the "stock" (as loose fibre), which produces a finer, sleeker yarn, and washed in the sparkling water from burns around Innerleithen. The same soft water that is the magic ingredient in Scotch whisky preserves cashmere's natural oiliness and produces a silky yarn with bulk and firmness that turns even the most traditional cashmere classic into the pride of British fashion.

The Dawson Group are old hands at the cashmere game. Nick Kuensberg, chief executive of the group's "premier" brands, plans to give a few new twists to his prestigious labels — Pringle, Ballantyne, Braemar, McGeorge and Glenmac. The price of a luxurious Pringle rollneck cashmere sweater today is about £240. "Prices had become quite extortionate in the 1980s," he says. "Today the cost of raw cashmere has come down from \$125-\$135 a kilo in the boom years to \$80 a kilo. We have taken advantage of that reduction and offer cashmere in the shops at prices down 15-20 per cent. As a result cashmere sales are up 30 per cent in 1992."

Nudge, nudge, yawn, yawn

Donald McGill, "King of the Saucy Postcard", died 30 years ago, at the age of 87. For decades his depictions of vastly upholstered landladies, skinny whores and curvaceous lovebirds held sway in all of the more raffish British resorts, while putting up a respectable show even in such bastions of decency as Hove and Eastbourne. The nudge-nudge captions ensured the cards' appeal: naughty, giggly, joyous, puerile and, in a word, adult. McGill's artwork was as much a sight of the seaside as the pier and the shingle. But now, 15 years after the ceremony to erect a blue plaque on McGill's house in south London, when the traditional unveiling curtain was replaced by a vast pair of bloomers, there are signs that the nation has finally tired of the joke. Original artwork and even early printed examples of McGill's postcards fetch ever higher prices at

seaside postcards have had to grow up to keep their appeal

auction, but in Britain's holiday resorts the demand has fallen. Have we at last become sophisticated?

"Fascinating, no," says Graham Wolford, the marketing director of Judge's, the company which, along with E.T.W. Dennis, Smithells and J. Arthur Dixon, has the British postcard industry more or less sewn up. "There's still a great demand for the joke and the rude; they just have to be more up-to-date."

Examples? "Well, about four years ago, there was the all-black card saying 'Blackpool by Night'. After a season, every resort in the country had the same card, but it's impossible to shift now."

And the rude? Mr Wolford becomes reluctant. "It is a very small proportion of our busi-

ness, you understand. We have about 4,000 images going at any one time, but this year we have, um, penetrated the boobies and bums market." A glance at the racks in Brighton or Blackpool reveals that we British still like it saucy. Not for us the straightforward golden-brown beauty on white sand. We favour close-ups of breasts painted to look like cute animals ("Feeling Bouncy") or rear views of ladies wearing things ("Beach Bums").

The picture postcard is about a hundred years old, and although it is difficult to find anyone who much enjoys buying them, writing them or even receiving them, tens of millions are sold annually. In the industry's time-of-the-century heyday, however, nearly 100 million



Still saucy, but today's cards (above) lack the humour of old

markets McGill-type cards (although not the originals) to a loyal audience in Scarborough, but nude photographs are clearly in the ascendant. "The naughty cards go best in places like the Isle of Thanet or Margate," Mr Wolford says. "London day-trippers buy most of them. But for places like Torquay and Bournemouth, our reps have to be more subtle. Once the sales of traditional

views have been clinched, they sort of, er, introduce them." A vision swims before the eyes of a thousand reps in a thousand genteel outlets hissing behind their hands "You like some feisty postcards?" Mr Wolford, however, is firm on one point: "You simply can't sell nudeness in the Cotswolds." Wish you were there?

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

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Gaining an Upper Second Class Honours External Degree from the University of London this summer, Stephen is now proceeding to the Law Society Finals' examinations and to articles with one of the top City firms.

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SAYSTEPHEN

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EDUCATION TIMES

Failure can still lead to success

Do not despair if your A-level results were not good, Jasper Selwyn says

At the end of last week, nearly 200 students who have just left Marlborough College received their A-level results, along with thousands of others throughout the country. In some cases, their grades, whether they be As, Bs, Cs or worse, will be crucial in getting to the universities of their choice.

In these days of league tables, schools too are likely to be ranked and judged by the percentage of A and B passes obtained. Students drilled by their schools to get good A-level results find that there are not only the usual initiatives at university. League tables should take account of university results as well.

How far can A levels be used to predict success in higher education, for which they are the main qualifying examination? My research shows that they are fairly poor indicators of future success, and this is borne out by the universities. There are probably very few schools that have managed to chase up most of their students who graduated in 1991 and compare their degree results with their A-level performances, but Marlborough has.

Almost 60 per cent of the 145 students contacted gained either a first-class or a 2:1 degree. Sixteen of them gained firsts, seven gained thirds and

eight failed to complete the course. More than a quarter (27 per cent) went to Oxford or Cambridge, and a further 12 per cent to London, Bristol and Manchester were the next most favoured universities.

The table right correlates their A-level performances with their degree successes. Each A level was given the same points as universities use: 10 for an A grade, 8 for a B grade, 6 for a C, 4 for a D and 2 for an E.

The average number of points scored by the 16 students who gained first-class degrees was 27.3, which was just over 3 points above the average (23.9) scored by those who gained 2:1s. The pupils who gained thirds or failed scored on average 21.4 points, which was higher than the 20.2 average scored by those who gained 2:2s.

The message from these comparisons is that if you get poor A-level grades, do not despair. You may still get a first, and you are almost as likely to get a 2:1 as those who won the best grades. Of course, you are less likely to be accepted for a popular course at a popular university, but "popular" does not necessarily mean "better".

Two dozen of the 69 students who gained 2:1s had poor A-level results. Dominic Barker was one of them. He gained Ds in three science subjects, retook his A levels at a crammer, managed to improve one to a B, and



Richard Handyside achieved three Bs in his A-level exams, and went on to gain a first in Law

Degree	No of students achieving degree	Total points at A-level	Average A-level points
Firsts	16	438	27.3
2:1s	69	1,648	23.9
2:2s	41	828	20.2
3rds	7	150	21.4
Failed	1	28	28.0
Medics	2	54	27.0
Honours	1	2	2.0

spent the rest of his year off in Australia. He then went to Aberdeen to read agricultural economics and gained a 2:1.

He said: "I didn't do very well at A levels in Marlborough because I was doing a lot of other things. I played in the first XI cricket team and in many other sports. But I would absolutely support the Vth form at Marlborough. It meant that when I got to university I was well-prepared and not afraid to do new things."

There were a couple of others from Marlborough there as well and they said the same. We were a way ahead of a lot of other students."

Dominic now has a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture to do an MSc in agricultural management at Reading University.

Richard Handyside emerged last year with a first in Law at Bristol University and is now engaged on a

There were 48 girls in the survey, all of whom entered Marlborough at the sixth-form stage. (Marlborough is now fully co-educational.) They won the same percentage of firsts (11 per cent) as the boys, but scored a higher percentage of 2:1s — nearly 60 per cent as opposed to just over 40 per cent of the boys.

Six girls out of the 24 who did badly at A levels gained good degrees, including my own daughter, Susannah. She had good reports from her teachers, but was not very good at exams. She got a C in English and a D in history of art, both of which were disappointing, and an E in biology. When she heard that her confirmed place was her rock-bottom insurance choice, Lancashire Polytechnic, she was pretty disappointed. But she was about to leave for year out teaching in Gambia, and there was no time to re-apply.

In the event, however, she thoroughly enjoyed her year. She studied English and history of art, and spent her second year on exchange in America. Comparing notes with friends at traditional universities, she found her course far more lively and imaginative than theirs. Susannah got a 2:1 and spent a year teaching English at a further education college, and has now started a training course for teaching English as a foreign language.

The author is the head of careers at Marlborough College.

Homework happiness

THE choice was tantalising. Compile a secret agent's code book, a list of bedroom/camp rules, a book review or a television viewing timetable for one day only. The exercise sounded more like a fun activity than part of the dreaded holiday homework which has in other years cast clouds over the long, glorious summer break. Could it be, I pondered that turgid holiday homework is being replaced by more imaginative thinking?

A straw poll among schoolchildren from Southampton to Glasgow soon showed that this is not the case. "I could not believe it when my son came home with yet another holiday diary," cried one nine-year-old's mother in despair. "It is so easy to fall behind that the parent ends up fictionalising what happened eight weeks ago."

One friend whose ten-year-old returned with two chunky maths books is still tracking down classmates to discover which pages were set and where the answers were to be written. A rushed search of her son's briefcase failed to produce an exercise book.

"By the time I can find out, it will nearly be time to go back so we'll have a panic to finish everything," walls my friend.

There's nothing like a rush to put both you and your offspring off projects altogether. How then do you force your child to pick up a pencil? "Make it fun," urges Michael Barber, head of education at the National Union of Teachers.

"Sit a younger child next to an older sibling or friend

so they want to do what the big ones are doing. Provide clear expectations that the work will be done and give a reward at the end, or simply praise."

Teachers too, should review the tasks they set. Mr Barber says: "I'd like parents and teachers to devise holiday homework together. They should also consider the age range: a six-year-old does not need more than a reading book, while those coming up to GCSEs and A levels will be working anyway."

Thoughtful structure is vital, too, says Henry Iver, assistant secretary for education at the National Association of School Masters and the Union of Women Teachers.

"It should be set out in sections, incrementally, so a pupil can progress as he or she works." The holiday homework also provides a legitimate excuse for rebellion, Mr Iver says. "Buy your child a comic — it doesn't matter what — so long as he or she is continuing to read every day. Over a long break, a child can forget how to do this."

Some go too far. One Oxfordshire mother I know forces her 11-year-old daughter to complete a daily verbal reasoning paper (purchased from W.H. Smith), plus an essay on top of the school holiday homework. At the other extreme, some schools fail to set any homework.

Homework can reveal a child's hidden depths. Back to that secret agent code. My cunning (bright) eight-year-old has done it all right. But it's written in invisible ink so his teacher won't be able to read it...

VIEWPOINT

Jane Bidder



FROM Wednesday, a special higher education helpline set up by The Times and The Sunday Times will be open to school-leavers and their parents to give up-to-date information on more than 80,000 courses at universities, including former polytechnics, and further and higher education colleges. The helpline will be updated daily and callers will be able to speak to a team of operators with information at their fingertips on institutions with vacancies for degree, HND and PGCE courses. Telephone 0839 444530 between Wednesday and October 2. Lines will be open every day until 9pm. Calls are charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at other times.

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Continued on next page

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- 6.00 Ceefax (38908) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (68072291)
9.05 Children's BBC: Bravestars. Space cartoon (r) (6835434) 9.25
Why Don't You...? 7 Entertaining ideas (r) (4052144)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6426827) 10.05 Playdays (r)
(s) (6201162) 10.25 Laidie. Canine adventures (r) (5908231)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (1713540) 11.05 The Flying
Doctors. Australian drama series (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8315618)
11.50 National Trust Gardens. Peter Seabrook is the guide to Anglesey
Abbey at Lode in Cambridgeshire (6767095)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7710250) 12.05 Summer
Scene from the National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale (5071521)
12.55 Regional News and weather (51386366)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (77502)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (4390382)
1.50 A Brush with Nature. Film about the return of the Southern Right
whale to the calving grounds of Australia's south coast (61843163)
2.20 Knots Landing. Dallas spin-off (3323502)
3.05 Major Dad: Face the Music. The major (Gerald McMane) resigns
from the army and tries to adjust to life as a civilian (6258892)
3.30 Macgregor Across Scotland. Jimmie Macgregor concludes his
200-mile trek across the Highlands by walking from Fort William to
Ardnamurchan (r) (231) 4.00 Cartoon (3351788)
4.10 Children's BBC: The All New Popeye Show. Cartoon adventures
(s) (1581250) 4.35 Top Mates. Final episode of the Australian
drama series (r). (Ceefax) (6132892) 5.00 Newsround (5032502)
5.10 The Lowdowns: Cadet Force. Last in the series of real-life
stories told by and about children (r). (Ceefax) (9179434)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (462926). Northern Ireland: Inside
Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax)
Weather (415)
6.30 Regional News magazines (845). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
(r). (Ceefax) (s) 7.00 Edoardo. (Ceefax) (s) (8569)
7.30 The Flying Gourmet's Guide. Chris Padham presents a
consumer's guide to the great British bird table (r). (Ceefax) (279)
8.00 So Haunt Me. Paul A. Mendelson's comedy series about a Jewish
ghost who persists in haunting a family. Starring Tessa Realdo
Jones, George Costigan and Miriam Karlin (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4989)



Old codgers: Bill Owen, Brian Wilde, Peter Sallis (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Last of the Summer Wine: Situations Vacant. Gentle comedy
with the Yorkshire pensioners, starring Bill Owen, Peter Sallis and
Brian Wilde (r). (Ceefax) (6724)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather (3618)
9.30 Panorama: One Rule for the Bosses. Michael Crick investigates
who determines the pay of Britain's company directors. When
others are being urged to show restraint during the recession, how
do they justify double-figure increases? (567095)
10.10 Cagney and Lacey: Revenge. Christine goes on the beat with a
famous thriller novelist. Starring Sharon Glasco, Tanya Dailly and
Oscar-winning actress Kathy Bates (r) (615601). Northern Ireland:
Greenfingers. 10.40 Cagney and Lacey
11.00 Film: When Eight Bells Toll (1971) starring Anthony Hopkins,
Robert Morley and Jack Hawkins. Standard high-seas adventure,
based on the novel by Alistair MacLean. Two naval secret-service
agents investigate the hijacking of gold bullion ships off Scotland.
Directed by Eileen Perier (6714). Northern Ireland: 11.30 Linda
Ronstadt: A Romantic Evening in Old Mexico
12.30am Cricket: One-Day International. Highlights of England and
Pakistan (4890903) 1.20 Weather (5436670)

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BBC2

- 6.45-7.10 Open University. Engineering Mechanics: Vibrations
(5382873) 8.00 Breakfast News (3178960)
8.15 Bitten by the Bug. Sounds made by insects (r) (3191811)
8.30 Under the Sun. The Brigantiae, Agard I, and her trainee Irish crew
sail from Galway (2051095)
8.45 A Week to Remember (b/w). Pathé News of 1952 (4596786)
8.55 Film: Across the Pacific (1942, b/w). Enjoyable, lightweight
war-time spy adventure, reuniting the team from The Maltese
Falcon. Humphrey Bogart stars as a secret agent dispatched by the
US Army to flush out pro-Japanese sympathisers. With Sydney
Greenstreet and Mary Astor. Directed by John Huston (4493981)
10.30 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts: Salads. Favourite recipes from the
Food and Drink series (6976279)
10.40 Cricket: One-Day International. The last of this summer's
matches between England and Pakistan. Tony Lewis interviews live
coverage from Old Trafford. Commentary by Richie Benaud. Ray
Illingworth, Geoffrey Boycott, Jack Bannister and Asif Iqbal. The
scorer is Malcolm Ashton (s) (5186789)
1.05 Birds of the Lake. An RSPB film about the thriving wildlife around
an English lake (r) (63011724)
1.20 Greenaways. For the young (r) (6300989)
1.35 Cricket: One-Day International. Further live coverage of England
v Pakistan from Old Trafford (s). Including at 2.00, 3.00 News and
weather, and at 3.50 News and weather, regional news and
weather (42526873)
NB: The live cricket may cause subsequent programmes to run late
7.40 Astor Piazzolla: Tango Nuevo. A 1989 studio performance,
featuring Piazzolla on button accordion with the New Tango
Sextet, to celebrate the Argentinean composer's seventieth birthday
(r) (5235211)
8.30 Nature Special: London Zoo - An Endangered Species
● CHOICE: Unless an unlikely benefactor can be found, the 166-
year history of the London Zoo has just 37 more days to run. The
root of the trouble is a financial impasse brought about by falling
attendance. At its peak, as a family attraction in the fifties, the zoo
pulled in three million visitors a year. This is five times today's total.
The film blames the change in public attitude, which questions the
ethics of keeping wildlife in captivity, and suggests, as the keepers
have urged, that the zoo should stress its positive role as a centre of
conservation. Chester Zoo has done just this and now draws more
visitors than London. Certainly there seems to be a greater
dynamism in Chester than in Regent's Park, where the important
decisions are made by an unelected council which owes its critics
claim, more to nepotism than expertise. (Ceefax) (4366)



Chasing dreams: John Gordon Sinclair plays Alan (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Film: The Girl in the Picture (1985). Cary Parker wrote and
directed this romantic comedy, stronger on charm than substance,
about a young photographer (John Gordon Sinclair) who tries to
save his life-in-peril girlfriend (Catherine Frier) from a cruel
brother. David McKay and Gregor Fisher. (Ceefax) (2989)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (584057)
11.15 Edinburgh Nights. Kirsty Wark presents more reports from the
Edinburgh Festival, including the Theatre for Africa company filmed
on location in the bush and an exploration of the work of German
film-maker Hans Jürgen Syberberg (s) (270502)
11.55 Weather (391502)
12.00 Open University: Mathematics - Paris and the New Mathematics
(287448). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (7914750)
9.25 Jumble. Today's guests on the cryptic word game show are
Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Hosted by Jeff Stevenson (s)
(7832331) 9.55 Thames News (281076)
10.00 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Cartoon (2891453)
10.25 The Fantastic Adventures of Mr. Ross. Animated tale (r)
(2894540) 10.55 ITN News headlines (3245989)
11.00 OX Tales. Farmland facts (3255366) 11.25 Just for the Record.
Record-breaking feats (r) (1943347) 11.50 Thames News
(9315182) 11.55 Cartoon Time (6742786)
12.10 Rosie and Jim. Puppet fun for children (r) (5079328)
12.10 ITN Lunchtime News. (Oracle) Weather (7655328) 1.05 Thames
News (63024298) 1.15 Home and Away. (Oracle) (297453)
1.45 A Country Practice. Australian medical drama series (s) (296724)
1.55 Thames Help. Jackie Speckley looks at eating disorders (288705)
2.45 Families. Anglo-Australian soap (s) (3289057) 3.10 ITN News
headlines (4424453) 3.15 Thames News (4423274)
3.20 The Young Doctors (6255705)
3.50 Children's ITV: Cartoon Time (3756618) 3.55 Scooby Doo.
Cartoon adventures (4305144) 4.20 The Bend. Last in the
puppet and animation series (r) (s) (1572502) 4.45 Chip 'n' Dale
Rangers (6123144)
5.10 Newsbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers (4630540)
5.40 ITN News. Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather
(218057) 5.55 Thames Help, with Jackie Speckley (r) (531144)
6.00 Home and Away. (Oracle) (811) 6.30 Thames News (163)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Nicky Campbell spins the giant roulette wheel
for the last time in the series. With Carol Smilie (3637)



Family friction: Sean Wilson and Warren Jackson (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street. The missing ES note continues to cause
friction. With Sean Wilson and Warren Jackson. (Oracle) (347)
8.00 After Henry: The Other Married Man. The last episode of Simon
Brett's benign and perceptive comedy about three generations of
women living under one roof. Starring Prunella Scales, Joan
Sanderson and Janine Wood. (Oracle) (s) (9057)
8.30 Film: Madeline (1987). Kim Basinger and Jeff Bridges star in a
comedy thriller about a murdered woman's accidental witness as
Kramer but not one of his stronger films. (Oracle) (51144)
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle)
Weather (66057) 10.30 Thames News (765659)
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